FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 062 *29 March 1984*

ARGENTINA

U.S. 'Good Will' To Solve Debt Issue Cited B 1
Alfonsin on U.S. Relations, Debt, Nuclear Treaty B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 28 Mar]
Grinspun Speaks on Debt at IDB Meeting B 1
Grinspun Reports on Status of Talks With IMF B 2
Frenkel Minister: No New Loans Until Debt Settled B 3
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 27 Mar]
Soviet Ambassador on Grain Purchases, Shipping B 3
Delegation Space Proposal at Disarmament Meeting B 3

BRAZIL

Figueiredo Receives Mexico's De la Madrid D 1
Editorials Hit Paraguay's Closing of ABC COLOR D 1
'Arbitrary Measures' [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 24 Mar] D 1
'Pretext' To Silence Paper [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 26 Mar] D 2

CHILE

Reportage on Day of Protest Events, Reactions E 1
Incidents in Punta Arenas E 1
France Condemns 'Repression' E 1
Pinochet: We Acted Moderately E 1
PDC: Demonstration Successful E 2
Jarpa on Protest, Seguel, Talks With Politicians E 3
CNT Leader Flores Assesses Protest, Talks E 4
Valdes Comments on Talks With Government E 4
Police Repress Student Protests in 3 Cities E 5
U.S.'s Kilday Meets With Valdes, AD Leadership E 5
Pinochet Scores Union Leaders, Opposition E 7
Socialist Bloc Calls for End to Pinochet Rule E 7
AD Closes Doors on Institutionalization E 8
Political Movements Reject AD's Actions E 8
Socialists Denounce Political Exclusion E 9
Interior Minister: Country Will Solve Problems E 9
Journalists Deny Interior Minister's Accusations E 10
'Anticommunists' Reportedly Attacked Lavanderos E 10

COLOMBIA

President Betancur Criticizes Superpowers F 1
De la Madrid, Betancur Discuss C.A., Trade [NOTIMEX 27 Mar] F 1
Regional Integration Efforts [NOTIMEX 28 Mar] F 2
Important Agreements Reached F 3
Mexican President Ends Visit, Leaves for Brazil F 4
Government Reaches Agreement With FARC F 4

PARAGUAY

ABC COLOR Employees Reenter Newspaper Premises H 1

Church Releases Statements on ABC COLOR H 1
Asuncion Archbishopric [ULTIMA HORA 26 Mar] H 1
Episcopal Conference [ULTIMA HORA 26 Mar] H 1
Human Rights Leader Comments on ABC Closure [ULTIMA HORA 26 Mar] H 2
Exiled Febreristas Condemn ABC Closure H 2

PERU

El Sexto Prison Inmates Seize Hostages, Riot J 1
Death Toll Rises J 1
Justice Minister Resigns J 1
Shining Path Actions, Clash With Police Reported J 1
Peasants Report Attacks by Armed Forces J 2
Briefs: Natural Gas Well Discovered J 2

URUGUAY

Economy Minister on Foreign Debt Situation K 1

PANAMA

Ortega Details Decision Against Maneuvers N 1
Paredes, FEP Cited [LA PRENSA 28 Mar] N 2
FDR's Ungo Comments on Salvadoran Elections N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

PVP Assembly Strips Ferreto, Gamboa of Posts [LA NACION 20 Mar] P 1

EL SALVADOR

Electoral Council Issues Count for 6 Departments P 1
Magana Says Elections Honest Despite Problems P 2
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 27 Mar]
Democratic Action Studying Problems in Election P 3
Notes 'Irregularities' [LA PRENSA GRAFICA 26 Mar] P 3
Claims System 'Failed' [EL DIARIO DE HOY 27 Mar] P 4
Party Stance Clarified [EL DIARIO DE HOY 27 Mar] P 4
PLN, ESA To Investigate 'Disorder' in Election P 4
Assembly Extends State of Siege for 30 Days P 5
Security Corps Searches for Cuban-Trained Group P 5
Road Transport to East Returning to Normal P 6
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 27 Mar]
ESA Reports Killing Guerrilla Commander 'Jaime' P 6
Army Patrols La Union, Clashes With Rebels P 6
FMLN Accuses U.S. of Delaying Electoral Results [Venceremos] P 7
Farabundo Marti Says 'Electoral Circus' Fails P 7
FMLN Claims No Voting in Chalatenango Towns [Farabundo Marti] P 7
FMLN Accuses 3d Brigade of Electoral Fraud [Venceremos] P 8

GUATEMALA

Andrade Claims Ignorance on U.S. Belize Request P 8
[PRENSA LIBRE 24 Mar]
Mejia Victores Accuses Cuba of Helping Rebels P 9

Ecuador To Extend Protection to 8 Refugees [EL GRAFICO 25 Mar] P 9
Large-Scale Counterinsurgency Operation Launched P 9
[PRENSA LIBRE 24 Mar]

HONDURAS

Combined Maneuvers With U.S. Army Completed P 10
Paz Barnica Protests Nicaraguan 'Threat' P 11
Paz Barnica on Nicaragua, Salvadoran Elections P 11
Paz Barnica Signs Declaration With Costa Rica P 12
Nicaragua Reportedly Attacks Border Towns [EL HERALDO 26 Mar] P 13

NICARAGUA

Liberian Flag Ship Hits Mine at Corinto P 14
Foreign Ministry Communique P 14
Sergio Ramirez Discusses Contadora, U.S. Policy P 15
Humberto Ortega To Depart for USSR, DPRK P 16
State Council Denies Chance of Electoral Fraud P 16
Coast Guard Vessel Damages 'Piranha' Speedboat P 17
Further on Boat Attack P 17
Army Reports 45 Rebels Killed in Chinandega P 17
FDN Claims Occupation of San Rafael Del Norte P 18
Voice of Sandino Broadcasts ARDE War Bulletins P 18
Casualties Inflicted P 18
Patrol Attacked P 19
ARDE Releases Communique on Mining of Ports [Voice of Sandino] P 19
Pastora Explains ARDE Principles, Sandinism P 20
[Voice of Free Nicaragua]

CUBA

Soviet Naval Officers Meet With Counterparts Q 1
Rodriguez Receives Member of UK Trade Group Q 1
Ceremony Commemorates Angola's Anniversary Q 1
Joint Document Issued With Upper Volta on C.A. Q 1
3-Day Mourning Decreed for Guinea President Q 2
FAR Officer Discusses Shelters, Fortifications Q 2
FAR Asks Young Women To Join Voluntary Service Q 2
Television Service for Tourists Announced Q 3
Chileans in Havana Condemn Pinochet Repression Q 3
Journalists Score U.S. Military Maneuvers Q 3

CARIBBEAN

Barbados' IDB Delegate to Look at Policies S 1
OECS Views Promotion of Area Countries Abroad S 1

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Bird Seeks to Dissolve Parliament, Call Elections S 2

BAHAMAS

Prime Minister's Lawyers To Sue NBC for Slander S 2

BARBADOS

South Korean Abolition Agreement Reached S 3
EPC Plan Sets Goals for Nonsugar Exports S 3

DOMINICA

Prime Minister on Trade Problems With Guyana S 4
Caricom Exchange Problems S 5

GRENADA

Release Denied 14 Detainees Connected With Coup S 6
Counsel To Prosecute S 6

OTHER COUNTRIES

BOLIVIA

Suspension of Transport Services Possible V 1

SURINAME

Suspects in Plot Released, No Evidence Found V 1

U.S. 'GOOD WILL' TO SOLVE DEBT ISSUE CITED

PY290206 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0130 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo tonight reported that "the U.S. Government has confirmed its good will to solve the Argentine foreign debt problems" This decision was conveyed to the Argentine Government by U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz at a meeting he held this afternoon with President Alfonsin, Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun, and Foreign Minister Caputo.

ALFONSIN ON U.S. RELATIONS, DEBT, NUCLEAR TREATY

PY281822 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] (DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin yesterday told Mexican reporters that no letter of intent would be submitted to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before the middle of April and that Argentina would not be "subjected to policies which imply vassal status" in its relations with the U.S.

In an interview with NOTIMEX News Agency the president also criticized the World Bank for increasing Argentina's foreign debt "by 225 million dollars overnight" via a half-point interest rate hike. He also said that Argentina would not sign the "discriminatory" Tlatelolco nuclear non-proliferation treaty although he assured the Mexicans that Argentina's nuclear programme had peaceful aims.

"We went into debt because we are not developed," he said, "and now they are squeezing money from us to prevent our development." The Radical president claimed that Argentina "did not want to impose conditions but wanted to pay its debt" but added that international bankers would have to understand that the only way a creditor can collect his debt is to allow the debtor to work. He denied any intention of forming a debtor's club.

Alfonsin also told NOTIMEX that "our country is already experiencing depression" and that the budget deficit would be halved this year. Finally, he emphasized the importance of Latin American unity. The interview was granted to prepare the ground for Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's state visit next week.

GRINSPUN SPEAKS ON DEBT AT IDB MEETING

PY281813 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1740 GMT 27 Mar 84

[By special correspondent]

[Excerpt] Punta del Este, Uruguay, 27 Mar (NA) -- Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun today warned that Argentina cannot continue paying its foreign debt under the current circumstances because it would only "destroy the productive sytem of the nation even more and will have a negative effect on our future capacity for paying back the debt."

During his speech, which was warmly applauded by Latin American delegates but received coldly by representatives of international banks and the U.S. delegate, the Argentine minister today harshly criticized the economic and financial policy of the "main powers." He spoke at noon today to the general meeting of IDB governors.

Grinspun stressed that "Argentina cannot continue earmarking two thirds of its exports and 8 percent of its GTP to pay interest" on its foreign debt.

The minister said that "the unusual rise of interest rates, the worsening of the terms of trade, the slow growth of exports, and the severe decline of the movement of capital" is due to the "monetary policies implemented by the main powers."

Grinspun explained that Argentina's attitude is to negotiate the refinancing of foreign payments "fully aware of its responsibility to service its foreign debt, but under proper conditions, because we have other essential duties which must be fufulled as well."

He went on to add: "We cannot accept interests and commissions resulting from any future classification of Argentina as a high-risk country, since Argentina, provided conditions are appropriate, does not pose any risks because of its well-known tradition as a good payer and its permanently positive trade balance."

Thus, the minister announced that "we will demand that the credit rating which Argentina deserves be acknowledged especially at this recently launched democratic phase," because "we cannot jeopardize national development or social peace."

Speaking about Argentina's creditors, Grinspun indicated that "they are reasonable" and added that "we are awaiting the reaction to our proposal," and "we hope that they will acknowledge their responsibility just as we are prepared to acknowledge ours."

The minister went on to say that "the developing nations can and must pay the cost of their own mistakes, but, " he added, "they cannot nor should they be made to pay for the consequences of mistaken policies enacted by the main powers and the international banks."

In one of the portions of his speech in which the Latin American delegates applauded most, Grinspun indicated: "We are prepared to ask, even to demand, due respect and consideration for our position," because "it simply represents our firm decision to defend national interests, in a reasonable manner, while remaining open to negotiations and being ready to fulfill our part of the bargain."

GRINSPUN REPORTS ON STATUS OF TALKS WITH IMF

PY282134 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun returned from Punta del Este, Uruguay, at 1500 today. The minister attended the IDB Governors meeting where he explained the status of the Argentine foreign debt. Grinspun said he was returning quite satisfied because the talks he held were positive.

Before returning, the minister talked with the press in Punta del Este. He said that the objections made by IMF officials to the draft of the letter of intention for the renegotiation of the Argentine foreign debt are minor. Grinspun explained that the objections are on monetary regulation and import financing. The minister explained that the IMF does not agree with the manner Argentina handles monetary regulation.

FRENCH MINISTER: NO NEW LOANS UNTIL DEBT SETTLED

PY281530 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] (DYN) -- French Minister for Urban Planning and Housing Paul Quiles told reporters no new French loans to Argentina will be granted until the Argentine foreign debt problem is solved. At a press conference at the French Embassy, Quiles added "Argentina must assume its responsibility and solve its structural problems, including that of inflation." The minister noted that "in France we have a plan to reduce inflation, a very tough plan to get inflation out of the minds of businessmen and economic agents." Quiles left yesterday after a four-day tour of Argentine public works projects, including the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON GRAIN PURCHASES, SHIPPING

PY281145 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1514 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (DYN) -- Soviet Ambassador to Argentina Oleg Kvasov today said that his country will maintain its policy of purchasing Argentine grains "even in greater" volumes than those which have been agreed upon, although he admitted that difficulties exist for shipment of purchased grain because of deficiencies in local port facilities.

Talking briefly with journalists at the Ezeiza Airport, where he went to welcome a delegation of Soviet officials coming to Argentina for a visit, Ambassador Kvasov recalled that "we maintain an agreement which was signed some years ago" with the military authorities, under which the Soviet Union is committed to buy 4.5 million tons of Argentine grain annually. The ambassador noted that "we generally surpass the contracted volumes," and denied that increased Soviet purchases from the United States can hurt Argentine sales since "there is no direct relation between our purchases from Argentina and our purchases from the United States."

He indicated, however, that there is "some inconvenience" during some periods of the year in Argentine ports, impeding shipments abroad, "including shipments to the Soviet Union."

Asked about Soviet initiatives to seek a more balanced bilateral balance of trade, Ambassador Kvasov replied that "we will try to narrow somewhat" the difference which favors Argentina, although "we do not propose that the imbalance be done away with completely, because we understand the difficult financial situation of Argentina."

Asked about the situation in Central America, the Soviet diplomat noted the Soviet solidarity with those countries, and denounced "the pressures being exerted there by reactionary forces and some imperialistic powers."

DELEGATION SPACE PROPOSAL AT DISARMAMENT MEETING

PY281221 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] At the UN disarmament meeting, Argentina has noted the need for the drawing up of an international agreement to prohibit the use of outer space for military purposes. Ambassador Julio Cesar Carasales, head of the Argentine delegation to the meeting, also proposed the creation of a special commission to draw up the agreement. He said that the commission should also be charged with securing the use of outer space for peaceful purposes only.

FIGUEIREDO RECEIVES MEXICO'S DE LA MADRID

FL282307 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2215 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Brasilia, 28 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid arrived in this capital today at 1700 local time (2000 GMT) from Colombia for an official 5-day visit. The Mexican president was received at the military base of the local airport by Brazilian President Joao Batista Figueiredo. Miguel de la Madrid is on an official visit which will last for approximately 15 days and include stops in Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, and a technical stop in Panama. The Mexican president concluded his visit to Colombia today.

EDITORIALS HIT PARAGUAY'S CLOSING OF ABC COLOR

'Arbitrary Measures'

PY261520 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Silencing of Paraguay"]

[Text] Out of his 71 years of life, General Alfredo Stroessner has enjoyed the last 30 of them as dictator of Paraguay, a remarkable record of political longevity, particularly in view of the transitory character of Spanish-American republics that are well-known for the ephemeral character of their regimes. It so happens that Stroessner has granted Paraguay a stability that the country never enjoyed before. There lies the reason for its peace and prosperity.

Unfortunately, the reigning peace is the characteristic of cemeteries, and the prosperity is that which is achieved through smuggling and organized corruption. This is the secret of the general's permanence in power: imprisonment, torture, banishment to the Chaco, and death for his enemies. And there are benefits and facilities above and beyond the law (let's not talk about immorality) for his friends, all of whom are rich in a country that is managed like a ranch.

Gen Stroessner has just given another example of his methods: He has ordered the closure, for an indefinite period of time, of the newspaper ABC COLOR, the newspaper with the largest circulation, over 80,000, in Paraguay. But a week before that, he ordered the arrest of ABC COLOR publisher Aldo Zuccolillo. Pressures against this newspaper, like others that have adopted an independent line and are the mouthpiece of the opposition and of other sectors that are discontented with Gen Alfredo Stroessner's political and economic policies, began in 1979. Since then, the Paraguayan Government has been continuously adopting several arbitrary measures against ABC COLOR: It has ordered police to surround its publishing house, it has blocked the circulation of its delivery trucks, it has intimidated its editors, and arrested its publisher. All these arbitrary measures have culminated with the closure of the newspaper and the arrest of its publisher.

For the past 30 years, Paraguay has been living under a state of siege that is suspended for only a few hours every 5 years on the day Stroessner is reelected for a new term. For Stroessner, who governs with absolute powers despite a legal facade and institutions, democracy is "a luxury item." Along this line of thinking, he has already caused the exile of about 10 percent of the total population of the country.

But he will be unable to go on for long without enforcing true democratic institutions. In addition to his advanced age, he has against him Paraguay's social and economic sectors that have been revived by the vitality and modernization brought about by Itaipu. Until then, we will have to count among our neighbors a dictator of the old school, like the Somozas who were welcomed to Paraguay after their overthrow -- and not by mere coincidence. As Stroessner did with ABC COLOR, Somoza charged that the newspaper LA PRENSA was responsible for promoting an "unrest that posed a threat to the peace and stability of institutions." All dictators suffer the same psychosis that makes them attribute to the press the errors for which autocrats are responsible.

In one of his last trips to Brazil, Gen Alfredo Stroessner noted: "When they assume power they (the communists) have no reciprocity with other democratic political parties, while in Paraguay totalitarian parties play a secondary role in politics." The truth is that in Paraguay Stroessner's Colorado Party is the only one that does not play a secondary role. In addition, Stroessner's anticommunism does not suffice to prove his government's democratic nature, particularly since it resorts to oppressive methods identical to those used by communist regimes: Both of them close those newspapers they dislike and arrest those that oppose them.

'Pretext' To Silence Paper

PY271314 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Mar 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Closing of ABC COLOR"]

[Text] Freedom of the press is the touchstone of all democracies. Although it is a political cliche, this sentence must be invoked again in view of what is taking place in Paraguay. Not long ago, the usual periodic fake elections were held in this country. They had the obvious purpose of disguising abroad the real image of the regime instituted in 1954 by General Alfredo Stroessner. The pantomine did not deceive anyone.

Subsequent facts have only helped to make that authoritarianism stand out. Now the Foreign Ministry has announced the closing of ABC COLOR, one of the three afternoon [as published] dailies published in Asuncion since 1967. Aldo Zuccolillo, publisher of the newspaper, had been detained (now transferred to house arrest) a week before this coercive measure and charged with being a "subversive." The "subversion" of which he is accused involves a refusal to reveal to the government, when summoned, his sources of information considered compromising for the regime.

Keeping sources secret is one of the intrinsic rights of the journalist's profession, an instrument of work, and above all a question of dignity in the relationship between an informant and a journalist. But authoritarian systems ignore or disregard these norms. In fact, the "subversive" accusation has served as a pretext to silence one of the press organs that, according to available reports, has been trying to maintain a more independent editorial line, less linked to the easy and rewarding official line.

During the past decade, Brazil has lived through a gloomy period for freedom of expression, a sad experience which grants us the possibility of discussing the matter with absolute knowledge of what we are talking about. And this leads us to express special hope that the winds of democratization in the southern cone will not find an insurmountable barrier at the Paraguayan border.

REPORTAGE ON DAY OF PROTEST EVENTS, REACTIONS

Incidents in Punta Arenas

PY281345 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Relay from Punta Arenas]

[Excerpt] Seven policemen seriously injured, almost 100 arrests, three bullet holes in a Carabineros water cannon car, and an attack on the (?68) police precinct building which was frustrated by police, were the tragic results of the so-called peaceful national day of protest called by opposition and Marxist sectors in Punta Arenas.

The most serious incidents took place in the vicinity of Independence Avenue at the intersection of [name indistinct] and Aldunate Street when a group made up of hundreds of people who tried to march toward the downtown area were stopped by police. As of 2030, this group burned tires, isolated the area by building barricades on several corners along (Martinez) and Aldunate Streets, and even caused a blackout during which the demonstrators carried out more violent incidents.

Moreover, there were similar incidents in the [name indistinct] community and the [name indistinct] community where organized groups burned tires, shouted slogans, and hurled stones against private cars.

A Carabineros guard was wounded at 2030 in downtown Punta Arenas when minors led by terrorists marched through several streets shouting slogans, throwing stones, and attacking Carabineros. Six carabineros, whose identities have not been disclosed, were injured in these incidents.

The grand finale of this tragic national protest took place when about 300 persons tried to take over the recently established police precinct building located in the 18 September neighborhood to rescue some persons who were arrested during previous demonstrations.

France Condemns 'Repression'

PY281240 Paris AFP in Spanish 1054 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, 28 Mar (AFP) -- In a brief statement, the Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that today France condemned the repression of the demonstrations that has taken place during the past few days in Chile. The French Government, the spokesman stated, condemns the brutal repression of demonstrations, which reflect the vitality of the aspirations of a return to democracy in Chile.

Pinochet: We Acted Moderately

PY290022 Santiago Radio Cooperative in Spanish 1715 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has said that the government acted with moderation during the national day of protest called by the National Workers Command and the opposition. The chief of state talked briefly this morning with the press at the conclusion of a ceremony held in Quilicura dedicating a new Cordillera ceramic plant. Asked about his opinion of the government's actions, General Pinochet said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] The government acted with moderation. I overflew the area yesterday and there were no Carabineros in those strategic points despite some isolated fires. We did not get Carabineros out into the streets. The curfew allowed people to get home early, thus preventing them from acting as in previous occasions. [end recording]

Asked the reasons why the government extended the curfew for tonight from 2000 until 0500 tomorrow, the president said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] Well, according to information obtained by the government there is a communist plan which is going to be implemented throughout the remainder of this month. You know that many people questioned the need for intelligence, but thanks to its work we know what the communists are doing. [end recording]

Asked what people have learned from the results of the day of protest, Gen Pinochet said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] First of all, the people have realized that the protests always end up with some problem of a dramatic nature such as the death of people. This is the first thing the people and I have noticed. Second, [words indistinct] people who are not labor leaders but political leaders disguised as union leaders [words indistinct]. [end recording]

When he was told that the opposition leaders blame the government for the deaths during the protests, Gen Pinochet said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] They always blame us. If we do something we are blamed, and if we do nothing we are blamed just the same. [end recording]

The ceremony dedicating this modern ceramic plant was attended by the chief of state, Economy Minister Andres Passicot, Housing Minister Modesto Collados, Santiago Mayor General Roberto Guillard, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, Central Bank President Hernan Felipe Errazuriz, and other officials.

PDC: Demonstration Successful

PY290215 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 28 Mar 84

[By Manuela Robles]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon. Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has delivered the PDC's official statement on yesterday's protest. The statement says that quote yesterday we have witnessed the largest demonstration ever held by the Chilean people in order to demonstrate their will to obtain a dramatic political change to put an end to the crisis and to restore democracy unquote. It also states that this is a request made by the workers, the trade unions, the students, and all the social and political democratic forces. To turn a deaf ear to this outcry by the citizenry constitutes a closed-mind attitude that will lead the country to a painful situation.

Later, the PDC statement says that it is time that those who hold the highest responsibilities should once and for all have the courage to acknowledge these facts instead of resorting to subterfuge and elusive attitudes without speaking out the truth which reflects the people's will. The PDC statement concludes by saying that if the government keeps ignoring this protest and believes that by holding on to power it can choke the people's aspirations by force, then the peaceful social demonstrations will continue for as long as necessary until democracy is achieved. This is the only way to peacefully, and in a civilized manner, solve the overwhelming crisis with which the government is unable to cope.

JARPA ON PROTEST, SEGUEL, TALKS WITH POLITICIANS

PY282318 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] [In progress] ...Chief of the emergency zone and other high-ranking Carabineros, investigators, and forces of order officers.

Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa added that yesterday's protest cannot be called peaceful since there were killings, destruction, and looting.

Regarding statements made by union leader Rodolfo Seguel, who said that he is willing to hold talks with the government, Minister Jarpa said:

[Begin Jarpa recording] What Mr Seguel should do first is to refrain from abetting unrest and violence since we have already talked once. On that occasion he told me that he was a union leader, that he wanted to stay away from politics, and that he shunned violence. But the very next day Seguel embarked upon a political tour, abetting all kinds of troubles. Thus, as the saying goes, he does not practice what he preaches. The statements of Seguel, who plays the role of a straight person, actually contradict his behavior. [end recording]

Concerning the eventual resumption of the talks with opposition politicians, Jarpa said:

[Begin Jarpa recording] We have always been willing to hold talks with all those who have good will, but when they start talking about democracy, cooperation, and national unity, they should actually do as they say. They should not say one thing and then do another. For example, last night they were hailing the protest as a success. Can you call this a success? There was death, destruction, and national losses through inactivity. This cannot be called a success. Good things for Chile may be called a success. [end recording]

Minister Jarpa added that, in his opinion, yesterday's protest was not a spontaneous one.

[Begin Jarpa recording] They have tried to wreak havoc here. [Words indistinct] a spontaneous protest, they prepared the setting for months by touring the country, calling for the protest through all the news media at hand, such as press interviews, statements, pamphlets, and the radio stations which they control. Therefore, the protest was by no means spontaneous, no way. Secondly, the attempt to wreak havoc and unleash violence did not work out as they planned. However, I do not feel that this may be called a success for anyone, since this is no good for the country. I cannot say that the government was successful yesterday. This is no success. Overall, the Chilean Government, [word indistinct] the Chilean people have not made any progress. On the contrary, economic setbacks, and resulting deaths and damages to property occurred. What is the good of all this? This is, in sum, what people should understand. These methods are good for nothing, much less to achieve democracy. [end recording]

Finally, Minister Jarpa said that all sorts of investigations are being conducted to clarify the deaths that occurred yesterday, and that it will be very carefully considered whether legal action will be taken against the people who organized yesterday's protest.

CNT LEADER FLORES ASSESSES PROTEST, TALKS

PY290057 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Hernol Flores, ANEF [National Association of Government Employees] president, and a member of the National Workers Command [CNT], assessing yesterday's protest, stated yesterday that nobody can ignore the fact that many people joined the day of protest, the first one held in 1984. It was a peaceful response from a vast majority of Chileans, which allows us to optimistically view future actions, Flores said. Flores added that the future actions which the CNT may take must be matched against yesterday's protest, and that the government must also use the same criterion.

[Begin Flores recording in progress] ...the extraordinarily positive and peaceful response from the citizenry and the workers to the CNT call leaves us, needless to say, in a very good position to plan future actions. I think that we must view all this with great responsibility, with calmness, and we feel that the government should do the same. Let us see then if there is good will sometime in the future to seek a realistic solution, a concrete, honest, objective solution to the issues that we have raised, issues that are troubling all Chileans. [end recording]

Regarding eventual talks with the government, Flores said that the CNT maintains its willingness to hold such talks in keeping with the appeal made by Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno. As an example, we have said that there are situations which must arise in order to start talks, but, nevertheless, these are not conditions per se, Flores said.

[Begin Flores recording] That is, we have said that we, along with the workers, are willing to reiterate what we have always said, that is, to talk with all those concerned to solve the serious and dramatic problems that are troubling us. We are willing to do our utmost to overcome this immense political, economic, social, and moral crisis that is troubling Chile. We are not imposing any conditions at all. What we mentioned on that occasion was just an example. They must understand this. We want our comrades, union leaders, neighbors, the citizenry, and political leaders who are imprisoned to be released. This is our desire and it is only logical that people understand it this way. Now then, since we are not imposing any conditions we do not want the government to impose any conditions on us either. [end recording]

Lastly, Flores reiterated that the workers have insisted on a peaceful way out of the crisis that Chile is currently enduring, a crisis which calls for dramatic changes and a return to democracy as soon as possible.

VALDES COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT

PY270111 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 26 Mar 84

[By Manuela (Arrau)]

[Excerpts] Scores of foreign and local journalists waited a long time for the end of a meeting held today by the AD [Democratic Alliance] executive board. At the end of this meeting, AD President Gabriel Valdes released a communique which states that the AD has time and again requested that tomorrow's protest be held peacefully and for this reason the AD fully agrees with the statements made by the archbishop [Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno] who said that one should not indulge in violence either by those who demonstrate or by those who repress.

On the other hand, the journalists questioned Gabriel Valdes on rumors coming from well-identified sources which reportedly say that the AD is advocating talks with the government. Gabriel Valdes replied that, as a rule, the government believes that by cheating and intimidating the people, the present state of affairs may be extended. Valdes added that the AD is strongly united today and that, as we all know, it is clear that when governments are faltering they especially resort to rumormongering to create confusion and disinformation.

POLICE REPRESS STUDENT PROTESTS IN 3 CITIES

PY290225 Paris AFP in Spanish 2105 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (AFP) -- Four university students were wounded and hundreds of persons were arrested today in Santiago, Valparaiso, and Concepcion, when police violently repressed students who demonstrated against the military regime.

Hundreds of students erected barricades in the Macul neighborhood in Santiago, demanding clarification of the death of five persons on Tuesday, when the eighth national day of protest against the regime of President Augusto Pinochet was staged. With tear gas grenades and a water cannon, police harshly repressed the youths who, armed with stones and other items, entrenched themselves in the university library. The confrontation lasted 3 hours and, according to eyewitnesses, police detained an undetermined number of students.

In Concepcion, 530 km to the south, the student federation decreed an indefinite strike demanding the clarification of the death of the Engineering School student Caupolican Inostroza, who, according to official reports, was killed yesterday by a rubber bullet. After the funeral of Inostroza, student Eduardo Bori was shot and wounded while a column of people was heading for downtown Concepcion chanting slogans against the police. Three other university students were wounded as police repressed the impromptu march with tear gas and sticks. According to radio reports, some people were slightly injured when a teargas grenade fell inside a crowded bus, although the incident did not have serious consequences.

In Valparaiso, 140 km northeast of Santiago, two university students were arrested as hundreds of youths chanted antigovernment slogans in the vicinity of the Catholic University building.

Meanwhile, as the night falls upon the poorer neighborhoods of Santiago, and just a few hours before the curfew scheduled to come into force at 0200 GMT, an almost complete blackout can be observed as a result of attacks against transformers and electric power poles.

U.S.'S KILDAY MEETS WITH VALDES, AD LEADERSHIP

PY232110 Santiago Chile Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The entire leadership of the Democratic Alliance [AD] today participated in a working breakfast with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Lowell Kilday. The high-ranking U.S. official, who is visiting Chile to gather information, according to his own words, met with the opposition coalition at the residence of AD President and leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] Gabriel Valdes for more than 1 and 1/2 hours. This is what he said to the press upon leaving the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Kilday in Spanish] Well, what I can tell you is that I had breakfast with Dr Valdes and the leaders of the AD. It gave us an opportunity to discuss the status quo in the country and this gave me a chance to gather viewpoints on the situation.

[Question indistinct]

[Kilday] Thank you. [end recording]

For his part, this is what former Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes had to say:

[Begin recording] [Valdes] Well, Mr Kilday came here to have breakfast during which he and the people who accompanied him met with the AD Executive Board. We all had breakfast together at my apartment, we exchanged opinions, we stated our viewpoints, and he asked some questions. It has been a very friendly exchange, a briefing.

[Unidentified reporter] What did the deputy assistant secretary mainly want?

[Valdes] He wanted to know the viewpoints and proposals of the AD. [end recording]

When the journalists kept asking about specific issues that were discussed at the meeting, former Foreign Minister Valdes added:

[Begin recording] [Valdes] We discussed the political and social situation from our viewpoint. It was very kind of Mr Kilday to come here this morning and listen to our proposals with an open-minded attitude and amid an atmosphere of trust.

[Unidentified reporter] What meaning do you see in the fact that the deputy assistant secretary wanted to meet with you?

[Valdes] I see in it considerable significance and I am personally quite honored by his willingness to come to my house and listen to the proposals which we have been making publicly. [end recording]

Asked whether Deputy Assistant Secretary Kilday brought any special messages from the U.S. Government, the AD leader answered:

[Begin Valdes recording] None at all. He came here as part of an information-gathering tour. He has visited other Latin American countries. He was very interested and, naturally, concerned about the situation in Chile. He has never visited Chile before. He did spend quite some time in Brazil. He knows the situation of the area in general and he said that he is the top State Department authority for Latin America. Therefore, I think that his visit was very significant and I am very happy that he was willing to come here and hear our proposals. [end recording]

Former Foreign Minister Valdes was also asked if the coming day of protest slated for next Tuesday could turn out to be dangerous, taking into account the prevailing atmosphere of violence.

[Begin Valdes recording] I do think it will be dangerous, but this danger, or rather the degree of danger will depend on the repression that the government unleashes. If the people, the citizens, are allowed to freely express their opinion and to stage simple, domestic demonstrations, such as the beating of pots and pans or playing music at their homes, we will have made the government listen to the people. [end recording]

PINOCHET SCORES UNION LEADERS, OPPOSITION

PY232225 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Report from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] Activities started at 1000 at the Diego Portales Building today when the president of the nation signed draft bills amending the labor law. The bills signed contained rules on labor contracts, pension systems, on-the-job training, checks, and intellectual property.

Speaking to representatives of the labor sector and civilian and military officials, President Pinochet emphasized that the government plans to stay on course. This is what he said at one point:

[Begin Pinochet recording] You have seen how certain union leaders have allowed themselves to be led astray by ambitious opposition politicians who use them by irresponsibily instilling in them the illusion of attaining power. To this we must add the advantage which the opposition has taken of the economic difficulties which the country has had to face. Fortunately for our nation, Chileans understand that the economic crisis which has widespread effects throughout the world, was bound to affect our country socially and politically. However, this government has always been ready to deal with our problems and to update our policies as required by changing circumstances and proposals submitted with due respect and responsibility. [end recording]

Thus, added the chief executive, the government has studied the proposed amendments to labor and social security laws.

SOCIALIST BLOC CALLS FOR END TO PINOCHET RULE

PY242300 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0339 GMT 24 Mar 84

[By Albino Mallo]

[Excerpt] Santiago, 23 Mar (EFE) -- A proposal to end General Augusto Pinochet's regime was released today by the Socialist Bloc at a ceremony held to pay homage to late Chilean President Salvador Allende.

Ricardo Nunez spoke at the Caupolican Theater to some 9,000 persons outlining the basic guidelines of the proposal which calls for "a united opposition that would follow a common course against the dictatorship." Nunez also asked that the mechanisms and deadlines "for the immediate termination of the military regime" be established, and reaffirmed "the joint demands of the opposition: the departure of Gen Pinochet, the installation of a transition government, and the calling of a constitutional assembly."

He stated his support for "a constitutional act capable of offering the Chileans a guarantee and of a commitment before the nation and history to make sure that a framework of democratic coexistence will be achieved."

This pact must include: "unlimited support for individual rights; pluralism within the law; rotation of administrations chosen by the people; freedom of expression for minorities; and subordination of the Armed Forces to the political branch that would arise from the exercise of popular sovereignty."

As measures aimed at encouraging social mobilization against Gen Pinochet's rule, Nunez suggested protests, nationwide strikes, and the setting up of rank and file united commands.

He also recommended the strengthening of the National Workers Command, the reorganization of university federations, the encouragement of human rights movements and cultural and professional associations, and the preaching of democracy in popular neighborhoods of the cities.

The representative of the Socialist Bloc said that the national opposition must stand together "respecting the banner of each and everyone, but directing joint efforts toward the fulfillment of the need to free an entire country."

The manifesto of the Socialist Bloc, a coalition of socialist parties which is also a member of the Democratic Alliance, asked the Armed Forces to return to their professional duty which is national defense, on the basis of a doctrine which will give the military a modern role.

AD CLOSES DOORS ON INSTITUTIONALIZATION

PY261425 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Democratic Alliance [AD] has closed all doors on the advance of the country's institutionalization as outlined in the 1980 Consititution that was approved by a majority of the people.

In a document, this opposition group has rejected the draft law on political parties and, in advance, it has also condemned the possibility of calling the people to a plebiscite or consultation so that it can give their opinion on various political issues. In other words, the AD is denying the people its right to express, freely and with sovereignty, [words indistinct] with the intention of analyzing the building of a new, complete and stable democracy.

The AD also rejects the draft law on political parties. This was drawn up by a group of outstanding legal experts [words indistinct] and, in addition, the political movements grouped within the AD refused to participate in the drafting of the law on political parties.

POLITICAL MOVEMENTS REJECT AD'S ACTIONS

PY261436 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The National Action Movement has indicated that the (?pressure) that has been unleashed by the Democratic Alliance [AD] has the intention of antagonizing society and the Armed Forces. It has also expressed its concern over the current state of national politics. It adds that the current political situation is the result of the attitude adopted by political factions that, although they say they are democratic, have linked themselves to Marxist sectors.

The National Action Movement has formally demanded that the political parties that are grouped within the AD define their positions and that they assume the grave responsibility of the outcome of this action. The Movement also calls on the immense silent majority not to participate in violent actions, adding that it is firmly convinced that the bastard interests of international Marxism and of those who are hungry for power are behind these actions.

The AD leadership has met to analyze the measures that have been adopted by the government regarding tomorrow's day of protest. Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democratic Party, presided over the meeting. The homily that was given by Santiago's archbishop was also analyzed. The archbishop called on all Chileans for a dialogue and to reject violence. The following AD leaders participated in the meeting: Mario Sharp, Julio Soubercecon, Enrique (Davila), and Ricardo Lagos.

The National Party has made known its absolute rejection of chaos and terrorism as weapons to be used in political struggle. It has also adopted the same position regarding a protest, whose organizers have not been able to give it the peaceful scope that they have always promised. The National Party has released a document in which it stresses that dialogue is the only prudent solution. It recalls that there were deaths during previous days of protests, that worry and fear were sown throughout the population, especially in the poorer areas.

The National Party calls for prudence and reasoning, which can only be practiced through a dialogue that takes into account the fatherland's highest interests. It therefore emphatically rejects methods that implement hate within the population, a basic factor to be found in the struggle of the communists.

SOCIALISTS DENOUNCE POLITICAL EXCLUSION

PY261316 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1941 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, 24 Mar (EFE) -- Socialist Party Secretary General Ricardo Lagos has told the newspaper EL MERCURIO that the government intends to exclude his party from Chilean political life. According to Lagos, "there is an escalation of actions against the Socialist Party" as the arrest of Juan Gutierrez shows, "in order to exclude us from the country's political process."

Lagos added that "when Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal called for the creation of a group of political parties to support the government, or President Pinochet calls for opposition to Marxism, they are only trying to push us off the Chilean political stage." Lagos noted that no pact exists between the Socialist Party and the Christian Democrats, because the repressive strategy is trying to exclude us from the overall agreement that is the basis of the Democratic Alliance, which, in addition to seeking to put an end to the regime, is proposing to establish a provisional government that will allow Chileans to confront the great crisis that the country is presently experiencing."

According to Lagos, the recent speech that Pinochet delivered to the members of the national youth secretariat "confirms that the rigid framework will not be modified, since now it is the president himself who tells the opposition that they will be confronted with military power." He added that Pinochet's speech is "a threat to return to 11 September 1973, after 10 years." He said that this speech "is a confession of the greatest of failures." He added: "For the well-being of all Chileans, I hope that the crisis will be overcome in a civilized manner and not through the military apparatus."

INTERIOR MINISTER: COUNTRY WILL SOLVE PROBLEMS

PY241233 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpts] At the inauguration of a seminar at the Diego Portales Building attended by the members of the National Women's Secretariat, Interior Minister Jarpa Reyes stated that the time has come for Chileans to define their position and that the media should do the same. He stated that the people should become aware of the need to pull the country out of the economic crisis it is enduring, build a democratic system, and achieve a period of stability, something which is not only the government's duty but also the duty of all Chileans, especially those who have greater responsibility such as heads of households and those who have had a chance to study and acquire a higher cultural level.

Unfortunately, these people, either because of personal or political ambitions, are not concerned about leading the country into a crisis.

The interior minister stated that this country will never become a satellite of communist imperialism again.

[Begin Jarpa recording] We, well-intentioned Chilean citizens, might argue a lot and have our different opinions, we might not agree which is the best path for progress, for the future of Chile, but I am certain that the great majority of Chilean citizens clearly agree that we are going to solve our own problems and not allow any foreign governments or international political parties to do so. [applause] [end recording]

JOURNALISTS DENY INTERIOR MINISTER'S ACCUSATIONS

PY261101 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1638 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 25 Mar (EFE) -- The national council of journalists, replying to accusations that have been made by Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa, has stated that problems in Chile do exist that are not created by journalists. The minister has accused the media of highlighting only the negative aspects of the country's situation, saying that the media at times offers its services to "people who do not even have the support of their wives."

The National Council of the Association of Journalists says in a document that "it expresses its utmost disagreement with the statements of the interior minister." The council also states that "it rejects any type of request that implies any type of self-censorship of the media, because it is the journalists themselves who, on the basis of professional and ethical criteria, must decide whom they interview or what type of information to pursue."

The Metropolitan Council of Journalists has also answered the minister. This council stated that "the community must have confidence in the journalists to talk to them about its concerns and also to give the journalists information and opinions, which is the only way to create a national and rational dialogue that will put a stop to those who support the interests of violence."

'ANTICOMMUNISTS' REPORTEDLY ATTACKED LAVANDEROS

PY232120 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] PRODEN [National Development Project] leaders have reported that the ACHA, Chilean Anticommunist Action, has claimed credit for the attack on Jorge Lavanderos. Engelberto Frieas, one of the PRODEN leaders, said that the government and the Interior Ministry must preserve public order and protect the people and their property, which means that the attack on the former senator must be investigated and cleared up by the government.

Meanwhile Hugo Cabrera, also a member of the PRODEN Executive Board, provided details of the attack and indicated that there are eyewitnesses.

[Begin Cabrera recording] There are witnesses to the attack. The information supplied by them will be delivered to the courts. The attack was perpetrated by eight or ten persons. Five of these persons beat Lavanderos with bamboo sticks that had steel rods inside them. The attackers were well-built and blond. They beat him while he was on the floor and then left. The whole operation lasted only some 30 seconds. Immediately afterwards two persons entered his car and stole the documents which were (?discovered) later in the cars. [end recording]

PRESIDENT BETANCUR CRITICIZES SUPERPOWERS

PA280211 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Colombian President Belisario Betancur spoke at a banquet in honor of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, who has been visiting Colombia since yesterday. Betancur strongly criticized the increasing military influence of the superpowers in Central America.

The Colombian President emphatically stated that it is frustrating to see that despite the Contadora Group's efforts, the superpowers' military presence in several Central American countries, far from decreasing, is steadily increasing. While there is talk of limiting armament at the negotiating tables, ships and airplanes from several countries unload their lethal cargoes in an unbridled race for strategic supremacy.

In his criticism, President Betancur specifically mentioned the United States, the USSR, and Cuba. He said that we are on the threshold of a declared conflict that would have sinister results for the continent and the world. This threat, however, does not seem to impress the superpowers, which are engaged in a mad struggle for power. Each one is convinced of the political and moral legitimacy of its dreams of expansion and domination. President Betancur, stressing the important role played by the Contadora Group, strongly warned that the group is seeking to prevent war and its intensification or expansion. However, it has not crossed our minds to be pacifiers; we are merely pacifists, he said.

Regarding the decay of internationalism, Betancur said that Contadora would not have been created if the OAS had fulfilled its duty

DE LA MADRID, BETANCUR DISCUSS C.A., TRADE

FL281225 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2221 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Bogota, 27 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid stated here today that the Central American crisis stems from injustice, exploitation, and the arbitrary use of power but not from the east-west conflict as has been claimed. During a second meeting held today between the Mexican leader and Colombian President Belisario Betancur, the two chief of state discussed the Central American crisis and the role played by the Contadora Group in the area.

In this second day of talks in Colombia, as part of a tour that will take De la Madrid to Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Panama, the Mexican President spoke against trade and economic imbalances and the unequal transfer of technology. He stressed that the reason for the international economic crisis lies in protectionist measures, high interest rates imposed by industrialized economies, and the deterioration of the prices for raw materials.

Meanwhile, Colombian Economic Development Minister Rodrigo Marin Bernal today announced that his country and Mexico signed initial short and long term trade agreements. Marin Bernal said that they established a contract through which Mexico will import 1 million tons of thermic coal [carbon termico] from Colombia beginning in 1985.

He also said that Mexico offered tariff guarantees to eliminate the deficit in the trade balance between the two countries.

Colombia's trade deficit amounts to $100 million.

A fishing agreement between the two nations will also be signed, Marin Bernal said. According to this agreement, Mexico will supply technology to the Colombian Vikings Enterprise for the fishing of tuna, shrimp, and other fish in the Pacific Ocean.

The trade agreements will be signed in a declaration issued by the Colombian economic development minister and Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Mexican secretary of commerce and industrial development. This agreement will be disclosed simultaneously with a political declaration that will be signed by the Mexican and Colombian presidents this afternoon.

Regional Integration Efforts

FL281534 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0220 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota, 27 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The presidents of Mexico and Colombia have agreed to make efforts toward strengthening Latin American integration, among themselves and within the region in order to lessen their dependency on other nations. At a press conference, Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Mexico's secretary of commerce and industrial development, reported on the agreements reached by the two presidents during their conversations. Mexico and Colombia will use their own currencies in their trade relations instead of using dollars or pounds sterling. They will also balance their accounts every 4 months. Hernandez Cervantes said that government officials and the private sector want to strengthen trade relations between Colombia and Mexico.

The two presidents also agreed to establish a so-called preferential unilateral tariff, a proposal Mexico had made at the Latin American Economic Conference held in Quito, Ecuador. On this subject, Mexico, which is more developed, will grant Colombia very low import tariffs, and will even eliminate tariffs on certain products that will be agreed upon.

The list of such products has already been drawn up by Colombia, and Mexico is studying it.

President Miguel de la Madrid described the document, which came out of the conversations, as an example of modern Latin American diplomacy.

After signing the joint communique with President Belisario Betancur, De la Madrid stated that an efficient fulfillment of reciprocal cooperation goals must be sought without undermining the nation or ignoring the sentiments befitting a meeting between brothers. But, he added, Mexico and Colombia also have responsibilities as members of the Latin American community and as protagonists of international relations.

Mexico and Colombia may begin talks on matters covering the auto industry, spare parts, buses, and the production of railroad equipment.

Another matter which was discussed was Mexico's participation in the construction of the Alto Alchicaya hydroelectric project. The two governments and their respective private sectors agreed to convene, in the shortest possible time, the Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, and Cultural Matters.

Important Agreements Reached

PA282209 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President Belisario Betancur today characterized the results of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's visit to Colombia as very positive, having bilateral, regional, and worldwide significance. President Betancur spoke with newsmen at El Dorado Airport a few minutes after the departure of the Mexican president for Brazil.

The Mexican president was in the country for 3 days. During this time he established contact with political, government, and administrative circles. Important agreements -- which President Betancur characterized as very constructive and of worldwide significance -- were reached.

The Colombian president also said that he has accepted Miguel de la Madrid's invitation to visit Mexico and that he will go there in the next few months.

This is the dialogue between the president and the journalists:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, considering the circumstances of the Contadora Group, is there a possibility that the presidents of the countries composing this group will hold a summit meeting in the near future?

[Betancur] Presidential summit meetings are always a possibility. But as President De la Madrid, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda have said, Contadora has its own chronology. At the Cancun meeting, as declared by the presidents, a calendar and chronology was decided on, and this calendar is being followed. It includes the possibility of meetings between presidents, foreign ministers, and technical groups.

At this moment there is no plan for a presidential meeting. It is possible that there will be a foreign ministers meeting. A meeting is scheduled at the end of April in Panama to review the decisions and achievements of the group and to carefully examine the 21 points that will be presented to the [UN] Security Council and the OAS.

[Reporter] What was the most positive aspect of this visit?

[Betancur] The conclusions, the agreements that were signed are of a bilateral, regional, and worldwide nature. At the bilateral level, there were very constructive agreements on exchanges, with Mexico providing us with supplies in various areas and our providing Mexico with supplies, such as in the industrial sector, and with technical advice. The text of this has been given to the news media.

At the regional level, we reviewed Contadora and possible adjustments in the Latin American, Central American, and Caribbean policy proposed by the Contadora Group, which, as you know, is not a pacifying group, but one of pacifists. This is a group that states positions and makes proposals in the search for peace, but it is the Central American countries who must secure their own future and make their own decisions.

At the global level, we are concerned about peace in the Middle East, for example. We are concerned about Latin America's foreign debt involving international credit agencies -- the World Bank, the IDB -- and international banks. [end recording]

MEXICAN PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR BRAZIL

PA282310 [Editorial Report] Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish at 1440 GMT on 28 March carries a live relay from the TAM military airport in Bogota of a farewell ceremony for Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid following an official 2-day visit to Colombia.

The announcer describes the preparations for the farewell ceremony at the airport and then reports that Colombian President Belisario Betancur and Mexican President De la Madrid have mounted the presidential reviewing stand. The announcer then indicates that the Colombian president will be the first to speak. Betancur begins speaking at 1446 GMT. After thanking his Mexican counterpart for this visit, President Betancur reaffirms "the deep, friendly bonds which exist between the two peoples and governments." He concludes his brief remarks at 1451 GMT. The announcer then says that Mexican President De la Madrid will speak.

President De la Madrid begins his response at 1452 GMT. He thanks the Colombian people and government and voices his satisfaction at having "reached specific agreements on matters such as political consultations and economic, educational, scientific, and technological cooperation."

President De la Madrid says the two countries "have reaffirmed our deep Latin American spirit and the need for peace, disarmament, and economic development cooperation." He stresses the need to strengthen mutual solidarity and to foster peace in the area, saying: "Regarding Central America, we are committed to sharing the responsibility of the Central American countries to establish a peace that conforms to their own will. This means rejecting any foreign interference, regardless of where it comes from, and confirming the right to sovereignty of the Central American peoples." He concludes his remarks at 1459 GMT, urging "peace for the Central American nations."

The announcer then says that the Mexican president has invited his Colombian counterpart to visit Mexico at his convenience. At 1505 GMT, the announcer describes the departure of the Mexican president's plane for Brazil. The live relay ends immediately afterward.

GOVERNMENT REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FARC

PA281522 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1504 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota, 28 Mar (EFE) -- The Colombian Government through its Peace Commission, has signed an agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group in the eastern plains region of the country. The meeting was held near Uribe, close to the township of San Juan de Arama, EFE learned today, Wednesday. It was attended by former minister John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace Commission, and by the foremost FARC leaders, Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias "Tirofijo;" Jaime Guaracas; and Jacobo Arenas.

The Peace Commission and FARC have signed an initial truce, whereby the "rebels" initially commit themselves to honor a cease-fire for an undetermined period of time. This commitment was reportedly in exchange for specific and immediate measures from the government in order to obtain the socioeconomic improvement of the peasant regions.

FARC is one of the oldest guerrilla movements in Latin America, and includes 25 action fronts scattered throughout Colombian territory.

ABC COLOR EMPLOYEES REENTER NEWSPAPER PREMISES

PY280140 Asuncion Radio Nanduti in Spanish 2145 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] After the procedures ordered by Judge Sixto Milciades Rivas Soler had been completed, ABC COLOR journalistic and administrative staff were again allowed to enter the ABC COLOR building shortly before noon today.

CHURCH RELEASES STATEMENTS ON ABC COLOR

Asuncion Archbishopric

PY271536 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] "The unpleasant surprise of the indefinite 'suspension' of the newspaper ABC COLOR still persists in the social-political sphere. It was something that had been pending for some time and it could be seen as coming, because ABC COLOR daily informed the people about events that in one way or another affected them. There could have been a time when it acted deficiently, but it is only natural and understandable in such a delicate and difficult mission such as journalism, which must 'observe and investigate' in order to inform. The people have a right to know what is going on in their land, how it is governed in their name. And, through this job, through a free press, the people form their opinions and judgments. Moreover, it is not easy to deceive the people when the facts are placed before them."

This is part of a document, signed by Monsignor Ismael Rolon, that was released this morning by the press office of the Asuncion Archbishopric. The document also states that the church cooperates efficiently with the process by "playing a specific role -- with its preaching of the Gospel." Therefore, "it has something to say about human events."

It states that "on analyzing logically the resolution (of the Interior Ministry), we can point out: That the whereas clauses that state the universal fundamentals, the background data that are used as finding of fact, are irrefutable, venerable and plausible: They are made up of articles from the Constitution. The conclusion that expounds the hypothetical commission of the crime was never very convincing for us -- nor was it just -- taking into account other events that, in our opinion, are comparable to the alleged crime that has been punished."

In this respect, Msgr Rolon states that "during the 'Voice of Coloradismo' program of 17 December 1983 the following, among other things, was stated: 'If the opposition lampoon continues with this type of preaching, we also have the right to agitate the Colorado militants against ABC COLOR and the rag could be reduced to rubble by our assault battalions...'"

Episcopal Conference

PY271752 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] The Paraguan Episcopal Conference [CEP] released a document this morning in which it states the institution's position regarding the suspension of the newspaper ABC COLOR.

"We are facing an obvious backward step in the long and difficult path toward national coexistence. It is another obstacle to the implementation of that ample, free and permanent dialogue that is an unavoidable and indispensable premise for real reconciliation between Paraguayans," the document states. The CEP stresses that "such a measure and the twisting of values that is being observed can only be lamented" and that submissiveness cannot be termed as loyalty, as the spirit of criticism cannot communicate with subversive agitation.

"The church must point out that all of this coincides with the closing of the Saintly Year of Redemption, when the call for the understanding of tolerance and the opening of the spirit to higher and common interests is more necessary than ever," the document stresses.

Finally, it states: "Convinced of the impossibility of achieving true peace and freedom and without a deep love for truth, which moves us to accept it and implement it, we bishops ask those who are currently responsible for the common welfare that a maximum effort be made to achieve reconciliation. With everyone contributing we can achieve great ideals and the goals of fraternal coexistence. These efforts are justified, even those that presuppose personal and social sacrifices that will allow us to make Paraguay an oasis of peace and justice."

HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER COMMENTS ON ABC CLOSURE

PY271842 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpt] Carmen Casco Miranda de Lara Castro, president of the National Human Rights Commission, has expressed "her complete solidarity with the publisher [of ABC COLOR] for defending a right, and her solidarity with the journalists, and workers to the last newspaper boy that have been affected by this unjust and arbitrary measure." She has also stated that the closure of ABC COLOR is lamentable and unacceptable, especially because the Constitution has been invoked. And in this case it is being violated because freedom of the press is involved. It is not surprising that the government cannot support the truth, nor that it cannot accept that human rights violations and the problems of social injustice be pointed out to it.

EXILED FEBRERISTAS CONDEMN ABC CLOSURE

PY281321 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 27 Mar p 22

[Text] The Political Committee in Exile of Paraguay's Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF], which is headed by Dr Valdovinos, has released a communique in which it states that "it repudiates the closure of the newspaper ABC COLOR and the detention of its publisher, Mr Aldo Zuccolillo. Both of these measures were ordered by the Asuncion government. "Considering," the document states, "that democracy has no frontiers, the aforementioned events are an affront to the democratic sentiments of all the civilized men and women of our America. Therefore, the PRF requests that all of the democratic Argentine political parties, ratifying their role as such, release pronouncements, which in this case is appropriate, on this aberrant attack against freedom of the press, which in itself defines the regime that Paraguay has had to shoulder for more than 30 years."

EL SEXTO PRISON INMATES SEIZE HOSTAGES, RIOT

PY281417 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] You are undoubtedly aware of the events that have made this an exceptional day as Channel 4 has been reporting them. We now want to expand on what has happened so far.

Today the El Sexto Prison turned into a powder keg when five highly dangerous criminals began a riot this morning and seized 15 persons as hostages, including three women, and demanded their freedom in exchange for the lives of their hostages.

The rebellion began at approximately 1045, headed by the dangerous criminal Luis Garcia Mendoza, better known as Pilatos. What followed was an orgy of blood that left one hostage savagely murdered, three injured, and an unspecified number of inmates wounded.

The murdered man was identified as jail assistant Rolando Farfan. Among the hostages, there is a lawyer, three psychologists, the presumed drug trafficker known by the alias of Mosca Loca, and Shining Path ideologist Antonio Diaz Martinez.

By the end of our newscast, the impression existed that the authorities were going to give in and meet the demands of the rioters, thereby allowing them to escape.

Death Toll Rises

PY281657 Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Lima 28 Mar (AFP) -- The director of the city hospital and morgue this morning reported that the official death toll of the bloody riot that took place at El Sexto Prison yesterday is now 19. Included in the number are ringleaders Luis Garcia Pilatos and Eduardo Centenaro Lalo.

Justice Minister Resigns

PY282322 Paris AFP in Spanish 2207 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 28 Mar (AFP) -- Peruvian Justice Minister Ernesto Alayza Grundy today tendered his resignation as a result of a prison riot that broke out last night and which thus far has left 20 dead and 17 wounded, most of whom are in serious condition.

In an impromptu press conference, the justice minister said he had decided to resign in order to allow the president to appoint someone who would not let riots break out in our prisons.

SHINING PATH ACTIONS, CLASH WITH POLICE REPORTED

PY281155 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1705 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 27 Mar (EFE) -- As a result of the latest political violence in the Departments of Ayacucho and Huancavelica, Shining Path guerrillas killed 40 peasants, and the police killed 60 Shining Path members.

According to the Lima daily LA CRONICA, the Shining Path forces attacked the town of Cecefelampra, 15 km from Ayacucho, killing at least 40 peasants last Saturday.

The newspaper reported that the guerrilla forces were well armed and had ski masks covering their faces.

According to the report the Shining Path forces demanded money and seven head of cattle from the peasants; offered one, they continued the killing.

The daily HOY indicates that 60 Shining Path members were killed by police forces in Papas, Huancavelica Department, adjacent to Ayacucho. According to the report the police confronted about 100 members of a Shining Path column who were looting the region stealing food, money, and dynamite from the mines. The police were supported by an armed helicopter. "Comrade Ramon," and "Comrade Carlos," who were already being sought, were killed during the confrontation.

After the clash the police seized light submachine guns, rifles with telescopic scopes, short barreled weapons, and a large quantity of explosives.

PEASANTS REPORT ATTACKS BY ARMED FORCES

PY271700 Paris AFP in Spanish 0242 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 26 Mar (AFP) -- Peasants from three villages of the central Andean region of Peru have reported that they were attacked by air and land by the Armed Forces in an antisubversive operation. Five peasants and two children died in the action, according to correspondents in the city of Huancayo, 312 km east of Lima.

The peasants, who walked 50 km through rugged mountains to arrive in Huancayo, reported that the villages of Viscas, Mantas, and Vinas were attacked by two helicopters and ground troops on 22 March. They added that two peasants, Ulpiano Rojas and Octavio Rojas, were killed in Viscas, and that two professors and several peasants were detained. In Mantas, peasants Benigno Araujo Condor, Marcelian Yangari Araujo, and Lidia Huanman Araujo, and two unidentified children, were killed. They added that several persons are also missing or dead in Vinas.

According to the peasants, 80 percent of the houses in Mantas were destroyed by bombs and machine gun fire from the helicopters. They added that the peasants had to abandon their homes and seek refuge in caves in the mountains.

BRIEFS

NATURAL GAS WELL DISCOVERED -- Energy and Mines Minister Jose Benavidez Munoz has reported that the Shell company has discovered a gas well that turns out 500,000 cubic meters of gas daily. The well is located close to the Camisea River in the vicinity of the borderline between Cuzco and Ucayali Departments. The well is 2,200 meters deep. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p A-4 PY]

ECONOMY MINISTER ON FOREIGN DEBT SITUATION

PY281212 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[By Tomas Friedman]

[Excerpts] Economy Minister Alejandro Vegh-Villegas has said that he is trying to leave everything in the best possible state for the next constitutional government and that he is working to provide the technical support needed for the political transition toward democracy. Talking to Radio Carve, Vegh-Villegas said that 1985, the year when the constitutional government will be installed, will be a difficult year from the standpoint of the foreign debt, because as obligations begin falling due, a new refinancing of the debt will be necessary.

Minister Vegh-Villegas also commented on the economic situation that will prevail when the democratic government takes over.

[Begin recording] [Vegh-Villegas] As I put it at the beginning of November when I accepted the post, we will try to leave everything in the best possible state. This is my main responsibility. I must also provide the technical support needed for the political transition.

[Question indistinct]

[Vegh-Villegas] Just what we are doing now, that is, reducing the fiscal deficit as much as possible, maintaining the same indebtedness level, maintaining the level of international reserves, improving the debt profile, and trying to promote a reactivation of the productive apparatus, provided the other economic and financial objectives are not affected.

[Unidentified reporter] One last question, what will be the situation that the next government will have to face from the standpoint of the foreign debt?

[Vegh-Villegas] I cannot tell you what the exact situation will be because there is still some time to go until 1985. Our situation is not like the most critical Latin American cases. A grace period will expire next year, and even though the debt profile is quite satisfactory in comparative terms -- as a result of the agreement signed with the IMF last year and the renegotiation arranged in July -- as obligations come due in 1985 the burden will be temporarily heavier because Uruguay will have to begin repaying the principal. Therefore, either fresh money or longer terms might be necessary. However, I believe that if we do things properly, the international banking system will be willing to give us what we need.

[Reporter] Does that mean that the democratic government will have to bear a heavier burden?

[Vegh-Villegas] Its first year will be harder than 1984 if it does not obtain new... [Vegh-Villegas changes thought] but I believe that if the new government, which will enjoy widespread support, does everything properly during the first 2 years, it will be able to negotiate easier conditions for those payments, so that the situation should not be very different from the one prevailing in 1984. [end recording]

ORTEGA DETAILS DECISION AGAINST MANEUVERS

PA290138 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Video interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega by unidentified reporter; date and place not given, with introduction by announcer -- recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] There is no other way within the Contadora Group to solve the Central American conflict but through negotiations, Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega has said, explaining Panama's decision to refrain from participating in the Grenadier I military exercises.

[Ortega] Participation in maneuvers of this sort is not routine for the Panamanian Government or the National Defense Forces, FDN. Therefore, Panama has issued a communique to the national and international public clarifying reports that Panama would participate in these military exercises. We noted that these reports confirming Panama's participation are unfounded, and we want to make clear at this time that Panama is not participating in these exercises. Panama is currently participating in the Contadora Group, which has gained support from the international public for its specific efforts to achieve peace, which call not for a military solution but for a negotiated political solution.

[Reporter] Does this mean that Contadora Group countries are not supposed to participate in any sort of military maneuvers?

[Ortega] At this time the four Contadora Group countries are participating in a forum of negotiations, and not in a forum of military participation. This determines the appropriate conduct for the Contadora Group countries. This position is not exclusive to the Executive Branch, but is also that of the FDN, which has continually expressed its support for the Contadora Group's efforts. Recently, in El Salvador, General Manuel Antonio Noriega said that Panama's participation in the Contadora Group is firm and benefits the Central American peoples. We must stress this because there is no possibility that the Contadora Group will pursue any alternative but negotiations.

[Reporter] On the same subject of Contadora, former Costa Rican Foreign Ministers Volio and Facio have said that the Contadora Group is losing strength. What's your opinion?

[Ortega] I would say that Contadora is stronger today than it has ever been. The group's efforts have resulted in two key documents, unanimously approved by the five Central American countries. The Contadora Group commissions are currently working, and will meet 1-7 April, so that they can deliver their reports on 30 April. These reports will be given to the nine foreign ministers.

We must emphasize this, because the Contadora Group is acting within its established calendar, and we now feel that Contadora, given the support it has received, could be a feasible solution. Statements made by Presidents De la Madrid and Betancur that the solution should be Latin American, and their firm requests that the United States, the USSR, and Cuba keep their hands off Central America, reflect our belief that the problem can be solved by the countries that are involved in the conflict. Of course, they need the support of the countries I just mentioned: the United States, the USSR, and Cuba, who should be willing to support a solution arrived at by the Contadora Group. Without their support, a Contadora Group solution would not have the necessary strength for implementation on the American continent.

In addition, a communique was recently issued by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez in which the two countries reiterated their support for the Contadora Group's efforts and for overall negotiations, as promoted by Contadora. The objectives include, among other things, the strengthening of democratic and representative systems, periodic elections, the elimination of foreign advisers and military bases, the rejection of terrorism, military equilibrium in the region, the reasonable use of military resources, and, more important than anything else, just economic and social development for the region.

Paredes, FEP Cited

PA281430 Panama City LA PRESNA in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 1-A

[Report by Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry released a brief communique to the media yesterday stating that the Panamanian Government will not take part in the military maneuvers that will take place in the Caribbean and Central America. The communique coincided with a letter sent by General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, to President Jorge Illueca, asking him not to allow Panama to participate. The Federation of Panamanian Students, FEP, sent a similar letter to the president last week.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, had announced in a statement to the press during a recent visit to San Salvador that Panama would participate.

The communique added that the Panamanian Defense Forces have a commitment to guarantee Panama's internal peace and to contribute to the normal development of the electoral process, but it did not explain the reasons that prompted President Jorge Illueca's decision. The communique added that "the Panamanian Government reiterates its adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence and to the norms of international law."

Gen Noriega said in San Salvador on 22 March that Panama would take part in the joint maneuvers that the Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Honduran, and U.S. Armies will carry out on Honduran territory. The Honduran Government has said the joint maneuvers will begin in May, describing them as the largest maneuvers in the history of Central America. According to Noriega, the Panamanian Defense Forces did not consider themselves excluded, since they had participated previously in such training exercises.

Almost immediately, the FEP, a student group that supported the "process" after the coup of 1968, protested Gen Noriega's announcement in a letter to President Illueca that stated that Panama's military participation would seriously endanger our domestic peace and security and asked the president not to allow Panama to get involved in them.

For his part, Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, retired, who is the presidential candidate of the PNP [Popular Nationalist Party] and the Third Force, sent a letter to President Illueca yesterday -- before the Foreign Ministry communique was issued -- asking him if he had ordered Panama's participation in the Grenadier I maneuvers as commander in chief of the Defense Forces, and if the executive had authorized Panamanian troops to leave the country and enter a war zone.

Paredes told President Illueca that no commander of the Defense Forces who is under the president's command can make on his own a decision that affects the security of 2 million citizens and endangers the lives of his subordinates.

As former commander of the Defense Forces and a candidate for the presidency, Paredes stressed that he was very concerned because Panama's participation in these maneuvers would place the Panamanian Defense Forces on a par with other armies that have always been instruments of violence and repression.

According to Paredes, to allow our country to take part in maneuvers that are intended to intimidate one of the rival parties in the conflict would align Panama with clearly defined positions in the regional conflict, making us judges as well as an interested party and disqualifying us from the efforts of the Contadora Group, which would forcedly be "laid to rest" by this partial attitude.

He added that the Grenadier I exercises are really military training for CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] and constitute an alignment with CONDECA. Panama's participation would imply that Panama had joined CONDECA, and had assumed a belligerent role in the conflict.

Finally, Gen Paredes warned the president that Panama's participation in the maneuvers would engender violence in Panama through a wave of subversion and terrorism that would have to be repressed by our own troops, promoting the intervention of the United States under the pretext that its interests in the Panama Canal are threatened, as provided for under the Panama Canal treaties.

FDR'S UNGO COMMENTS ON SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA281221 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Statement by Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, in Panama; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] We can say that according to preliminary reports, the political failure of the Reagan administration's military strategy can clearly be seen. It is a failure because the elections were imposed by Washington under very difficult conditions, even for the Salvadoran Government. Now we can see the consequences of the elections. There was disorganization not only in rural but in urban sectors as well, and even in the capital city. Threats and fear drove many people to the polls, where they had to stand in long lines for hours -- and many of them were not able to vote.

Furthermore, we can see that the government sectors themselves are challenging the elections, the results, and the way they were carried out. We have reports, for example, that the Democratic Action Party met in an emergency session to discuss what action to take and whether to challenge the elections.

Foreign reporters who were there, even those from the VOA, have reported disorganization and bureaucratic mistakes. We had foreseen this because the elections were being held during a war. It was impossible for people throughout the whole country to vote because our front has been controlling some areas, and elections could not be held in those areas. In some other areas military activity prevented elections from being held. As we said before, about 800,000 Salvadoran people have become refugees in other countries.

This reaffirms that the 1982 elections and those held today are not the solution, nor a path to peace -- but on the contrary, a path to war. This is going to prove that the conflict and its causes [words indistinct] will become more evident. This experience will serve to strengthen our positions and our proposals.

Undoubtedly, this has positive and negative aspects. It will be more difficult for President Reagan to get Congress to approve his request for additional funds, and for increased U.S. intervention and participation in El Salvador to take place. On the other hand, we must bear in mind that the delegation of observers sent by President Reagan was made up mostly of congressmen who support his policies and some Democratic congressmen, mostly from the southern states, who concur with the Republican congressmen.

Today's elections will undoubtedly be one of the topics on the agenda to be debated next week in Congress. Many voices will be raised to claim that regardless of what is said about the disorganization, failures, and deficiencies, it will be clear that they were not national elections, that they were biased, and were conducted in the midst of a war, which detracts from their legitimacy.

They will basically blame our fronts, particularly the FMLN. They will claim that to a great extent the bureaucratic deficiencies were just that, deficiencies, and not defects due to the intrinsic weakness of the electoral process carried out in the midst of a war. They will blame our military activity as one of the main factors for their failure.

I think that we must stress that we did not plan, program, or carry out these elections. The Reagan administration blundered in its decision to carry out the elections under the worst possible conditions -- that is to say, in the midst of a war, a war that is being waged under very unfavorable conditions for the Salvadoran Government.

COSTA RICA

PVP ASSEMBLY STRIPS FERRETO, GAMBOA OF POSTS

PA281818 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 4A

[Excerpts] The national assembly of the Popular Vanguard Party (PVP) yesterday approved a resolution removing Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto (of Puntarenas) and Francisco Gamboa from their posts as secretary general and treasurer of the party, respectively. The decision was made yesterday afternoon at the Vanguard youth headquarters in the Los Angeles district, before over 60 delegates. There are 70 assembly members, 10 for each province. The assembly also gave Eduardo Mora Valverde and Arturo Fournier Facio a vote of confidence for their activities at the Civil Registry and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE). The assembly asked that it not be discriminated against through demands and requirements never asked of other political parties in the past.

The assembly decided to respect any future resolution adopted by the TSE with respect to the dispute over the legal possession of the party by two groups within the party, the "Manuelistas" [reference to Manuel Mora Valverde] and those led by Deputy Ferreto. The assembly delegates yesterday endorsed the legality of the procedure used to convoke last December's assembly, which was called not by president Manuel Mora Valverde but by 25 percent of its members.

The assemblymen also asked the Civil Registry and the TSE to act in accordance with the laws and to accept the previous national assemblies, which elected the new PVP executive committee (excluding Ferreto and Gamboa), and approved the amendments to the party's statutes. In another document, they approved a decision to respect any future decision of the TSE on the legality of the party's possession, "whatever it may be," although they expect the TSE to favor them.

EL SALVADOR

ELECTORAL COUNCIL ISSUES COUNT FOR 6 DEPARTMENTS

PA282312 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2213 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Report issued by Roberto Meza, Salvadoran Central Electoral Council, CCE, vice president, at the CCE installations in the international fairgrounds in San Salvador -- live]

[Text] This is CCE Vice President Roberto Meza from the CCE counting hall that, as all Salvadorans know, has been installed at the international fairgrounds. This is the latest information on the count being made by our computers. As was explained this morning, the count is still unofficial but it does have the authority and responsibility of the CCE behind it. Therefore, as we said that we could give advance figures on the different departments in less time than is required to compare the vote records, we have processed the following departments: Sonsonate, La Paz, Chalatenango, Morazan, San Vicente, and Ahuachapan. In other words, we have 6 of the country's 14 departments. I am going to read the votes for each of those departments.

Sonsonate: ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] 35,424; PDC [Christian Democratic Party] 47,843; PCN [National Conciliation Party] 20,515; MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement] 583; AD [Democratic Action] 1,367; PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party] 2,288; POP [Popular Orientation Party] 3,183; PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party] 362; total number of valid votes for Sonsonate Department, 111,565.

La Paz Department: ARENA, 13,311; PDC, 18,630; PCN, 10,442; MERECEN, 354; AD, 585; PPS, 751; POP, 1,681; PAISA, 224; total number of valid votes for La Paz Department, 45,978.

Chalatenango Department: ARENA, 5,062, PDC, 8,479; PCN, 4,969; MERECEN, 40; AD, 269; PPS, 208; POP, 54; PAISA, 311; total number of voters for Chalatenango Department, 19,392.

Morazan Department: Arena, 6,933; PDC, 9,894; PCN, 9,360; MERECEN, 41; AD, 436; PPS, 807; POP, 467; PAISA, 80; total number of valid votes for Morazan Department, 28,018.

San Vicente Department: ARENA, 10,947; PDC, 11,029; PCN, 7,471; MERECEN, 130; AD, 729; PPS, 631; POP, 100; PAISA, 361; a total of 31,398 valid votes in San Vicente Department.

Ahuachapan Department: ARENA, 23,060; PDC, 23,737; PCN, 16,347; MERECEN, 136; AD, 975; PPS, 1,303; POP, 196; PAISA, 909; a total of 66,664 valid votes in Ahuachapan Department.

If we add up all voters from the six departmsnts, we obtain the following figures:

ARENA, 94,737; PDC, 119,612; PCN, 69,104; MERECEN, 1,284; AD, 4,362; PPS, 5,988; POP, 5,681; PAISA, 2,247; The total number of voters in the six departments counted so far is 303,015. This represents 25 percent of all valid votes that the CCE has established as the grand total of citizens who cast valid votes on 25 March. Since we know that the Salvadoran people are interested in knowing the percentages on the basis of the votes, they are as follows:

ARENA, 31.26 percent; PDC, 40.01 percent; PCN, 22.81 percent; MERECEN, 42 percent; AD, 1.44 percent; PPS, 1.98 percent; POP, 1.87 percent; PAISA, 1.74 percent; These are the percentages counting 303,015 votes, which constitute 100 percent of the votes counted in six departments of the Republic: Sonsonate, La Paz, Chalatenango, Morazan, San Vicente, and Ahuachapan.

MAGANA SAYS ELECTIONS HONEST DESPITE PROBLEMS

PA281854 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 3, 19

[Excerpts] During yesterday's interview with EL DIARIO DE HOY, Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana said: I interpret our people's presence at the voting tables as a rejection of the violent solution that the subversion has tried to find in our country. President Magana was visibly optimistic. He said that the stance adopted by the people has been another example of the democracy experienced in El Salvador, and that all the foreign observers at the national elections have witnessed this.

Question: What is your opinion regarding the mistakes attributed to the Central Electoral Council [CCE]?

Answer: The truth is that many voters were faced with some problems. I believe that some problems were due to the power failures caused by subversive actions on the day before the elections, which created problems in the distribution of the ballots and ballot boxes. However, there were other difficulties that were probably related to the job itself. I don't have all the facts, but I admit that the process of informing the voters was not sufficient or adequate.

Question: What do you believe was the most important thing about yesterday's elections?

Answer: Aside from the problems and difficulties, which I hope will bring no more problems, is the fact that once again the people of El Salvador came out to vote. To me this means two things: 1) The great democratic nature of the Salvadoran people cannot be denied. As I said before, we who have a democratic nature are against those who want power by means of violence. In that sense I interpret our people's presence at the voting tables as a rejection of the violent solution that the subversion has tried to find in our country. 2) It is also important to note that if there were difficulties and deficiencies in the organization and the procedures for voting and in providing the necessary means to carry out the electoral process, it is also clear that these have been administrative deficiencies, mistakes that may or may not have been imported from abroad. This will have to be judged later. However, we must admit that to this moment no one has mentioned fraud or anything similar that could favor or affect a certain candidate. This means that the elections have been carried out honestly, despite the deficiencies pointed out by the news media.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the Armed Forces, which played an extraordinary role as a professional organization. This is a source of satisfaction and pride, and I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate all the Armed Forces members who contributed to carrying out this electoral process, living up to their responsibility as the organization that safeguards peace in our country.

DEMOCRATIC ACTION STUDYING PROBLEMS IN ELECTION

Notes 'Irregularities'

PA272027 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] Presidential candidate Dr Rene Fortin Magana said yesterday afternoon that Democratic Action [AD] is currently studying some irregularities that were observed during the elections in order to decide whether or not they invalidate the election.

The people are clearly aware of the lack of voting slips, ballot boxes, registry books, and the fact that many of the voting centers were opened well after the hour specified by the electoral law. Some voting centers opened as late as 1000.

Fortin Magana said that serious incidents took place at Flor Blanca [National Stadium] and other voting centers when people were allowed to vote despite the fact that they were not included on the voting lists. Actions to intimidate people to prevent them from voting were also reported. In other cases, ballot boxes were stolen. What is most frustrating, thousands of people could not vote due to the lack of organization in the electoral system.

Dr Rene Fortin Magana explained that AD will challenge the elections only on behalf of the Salvadoran people, because the people should not be treated this way after proving their high civic spirit.

We believe that there are some faults in the system and we must honestly accept them, correct them, and prepare appropriately for new elections. "Democratic Action was right when we said in December 1982 that there was no need to advance the elections," he said.

Claims System 'Failed'

PA281924 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 2, 37

[Excerpts] Doctor Rene Fortin Magana, AD [Democratic Action] presidential candidate, has said: We do not have evidence of fraud in favor of any political party. However, it is clear that the system used failed on many occasions, because many people could not vote.

Question: We asked Dr [Ricardo] Gonzalez Camacho if AD was going to protest the elections. What can you tell us about this?

Answer: Our representatives have already protested certain documents, and we are studying the information received to determine what action will be taken. We will protest the procedures used, which clearly violated what is established by the law. However, I do not think this will mean that we will protest the whole election, because it would not change the final results.

Party Stance Clarified

PA281919 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 3, 13

[Excerpt] Doctor Ricardo Gonzalez Camacho, AD [Democratic Action] deputy for San Salvador Department, has said: It is not true that we said we were going to protest the elections; what we said was that many irregularities were taking place, mainly regarding administrative matters. We especially denounced the fact that the voting process in some places was being carried out without an electoral registry, and this was published in EL DIARIO DE HOY. These actions openly violated the law, and we are studying all the documents to ascertain these irregularities, because it will be necessary to annul the votes that were cast in a clear violation of the law. This does not mean, however, we are going to protest the whole election.

PLN, ESA TO INVESTIGATE 'DISORDER' IN ELECTION

PA290247 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1515 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] About 20 minutes ago this station's press department received a telephone call from the Party of National Liberation [PLN] and its armed wing, the Secret Anticommunist Army [ESA], in which they said that a communique could be found on Ruben Dario Street. We immediately picked it up. The communique states:

The PLN and its armed wing, the ESA, report to the Salvadoran people regarding the electoral process: In view of the political conditions in our country under which the elections for president are being held -- elections that the FMLN's terrorist actions could not stop -- we state:

A. Members of the Central Electoral Council [CCE] and some political parties have played into the communist FMLN's hands by imposing interparty interests, frustrating the Salvadoran people with disorder on 25 March, as a result of which a large number of people were unable to vote. This disorder produced by the CCE is a betrayal of the fatherland and the Salvadoran people. It will be investigated by our organization, and those responsible will be punished.

B. We ask the Armed Forces to intervene directly in the process to effectively guarantee the electoral process, truly -- and not merely for propaganda's sake -- fighting the communists of the FMLN and defending the Salvadoran people's right to vote, establishing order to prevent the shameful fraud that the corrupt political parties have perpetrated with the endorsement of the CCE.

C. We warn bad Salvadorans that with their attitude they are playing into the hands of international communism and the FMLN terrorists. We will not permit continued attacks on the Salvadoran people, since our ESA commandos are on maximum alert, attentive to the development of the elections.

D. As part of our actions within the current campaign in support of the elections, our urban commandos captured as a prisoner of war the terrorist with the pseudonym of Jaime, an FMLN commander and a member of the RN [National Resistance] and FARN [Armed Forces of National Resistance], on Saturday, 24 March. Valuable information was confiscated from him regarding the actions the guerrillas would take in San Salvador on 25 March. Commander Jaime was tried and sentenced to death by our organization. He was executed and left in the San Benito neighborhood.

We fought yesterday; we fight today, tomorrow, and always.

[Signed] Commander Aquiles Baires, secretary general of the PLN and commander of the joint staff; Commander Jorge Palomo, chief of the military commission; Commander Adolfo Torres, chief of the political commission.

San Salvador, 28 March 1984

ASSEMBLY EXTENDS STATE OF SIEGE FOR 30 DAYS

PA280452 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0427 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Roberto Reyes report]

[Text] This afternoon the Legislative Assembly approved an extension of the state of siege for another 30 days. The suggestion was presented by the country's Council of Ministers. The approval was carried out after dispensing with the usual procedures because today was the last day of the previously approved extension. We repeat, the extension of the state of siege was approved this afternoon.

SECURITY CORPS SEARCHES FOR CUBAN-TRAINED GROUP

PA281932 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1748 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Army and security corps are searching for a "suicidal group that arrived from Cuba with the intention of assassinating public officials or members of political parties," it was learned here today. According to a police source, the group is reportedly composed of 17 to 20 Salvadorans who were trained in Cuba.

Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana heads the list of those who could be the intended victims of the group. Furthermore, according to the data available to the security forces, the group intended to kill some presidential candidates. Questioned on the matter, President Magana said that "we received the information several weeks ago along with a list of possible victims." Jose Napoleon Duarte, presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party, charged last Sunday, the day of the elections, that the group wanted to kill him.

ROAD TRANSPORT TO EAST RETURNING TO NORMAL

PA290453 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Mar 84 pp 2, 25

[Excerpt] Interdepartmental transportation to the eastern part of the country began to normalize yesterday at 0600 according to spokesmen from the eastern terminal. For the past 2 days transportation had been restricted by law and threats issued by extremist groups. Eighty percent of normal activity was restored yesterday morning with the Armed Forces patrolling the roads. Soldiers are now patrolling the country's three main roads: the Pan-American Highway, the Coastal Highway, and the northern trunk road. According to military authorities and transporters, there have been no problems with the roads linking the rest of the country with departmental capitals, except for Suchitoto.

ESA REPORTS KILLING GUERRILLA COMMANDER 'JAIME'

PA281900 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1738 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Secret Anticommunist Army (ESA) death squad reported that it has killed guerrilla Commander "Jaime" "after finding him guilty" of killing a deputy of the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly. In a communique sent to the news media, the ESA states that Commander "Jaime" was found carrying important documents about the guerrillas' planned sabotage during the 25 March presidential elections.

The ultraconservative organization did not specify whom "Commander Jaime" killed; three deputies have been killed recently: Hector Tulio Flores (of the National Conciliation Party, PCN), Roberto Ismael Ayala (of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party), and Ricardo Pohl (of the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance). ESA reported that "Commander Jaime" was captured last Saturday and was executed on Sunday. From the documents found on him it was ascertained that he belonged to the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN). The ESA announced last Thursday that it would impose drastic measures on the evil Salvadorans and foreigners who attempted to disrupt the electoral process of El Salvador.

ARMY PATROLS LA UNION, CLASHES WITH REBELS

PA271927 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1900 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] A counterinsurgency operation began on Monday north of Anamoros, La Union Department. Some 500 soldiers have been patrolling near the town, searching for the rebels who have been harassing the neighboring towns in that northern area of the department. Military reports state that seven leftists died in the first clashes reported north of Anamoros. They have also reported that two soldiers were slightly wounded. The extremists' actions in the eastern sectors of the country have decreased this week according to the Army. The Army is patrolling the main highways of the four departments.

FMLN ACCUSES U.S. OF DELAYING ELECTORAL RESULTS

PA281615 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Your attention, please Salvadoran people. Radio Venceremos is going to explain the reason for the delay in announcing the results of the electoral farce. The Reagan administration, through its embassy in El Salvador, is exerting pressure to secure an agreement between the political parties and the Central Electoral Council. The agreement would be to delay announcing the electoral results in order to give the Reagan administration time to get U.S. Congressional approval for military aid to the Salvadoran Army. The charges we are making gained added validity when a short time ago an important Central Electoral Council official announced that the council would be unable to give the final results of the electoral farce until 4 days and 7 hours after the closing of the polls. The Central Electoral Council is trying to evade tremendous pressure from the people who are viewing the delay suspiciously.

FARABUNDO MARTI SAYS 'ELECTORAL CIRCUS' FAILS

PA282315 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The $10 million elections, the aircraft carriers' elections, the death squads' elections have been rejected by our people. The advisers, the computers, the radios, the combing operations, and the sieges of striking factories have been unable to prevent the people's rejection. Reagan's elections in El Salvador have failed. The disaster represented by these elections is a victory for the Salvadoran people, because a government of broad participation is the true solution for the Salvadoran workers. What is the matter with the Yankees, that they have yet to understand that they can't fool the Salvadoran people? Their little election game has not come out right. Not even with aircraft carriers, sophisticated war machinery, or computers have they been able to successfully carry out the dictatorship's electoral circus. Yankee aggressor, get out of El Salvador!

FMLN CLAIMS NO VOTING IN CHALATENANGO TOWNS

PA290328 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The territory of Chalatenango is controlled by our people in arms. In the northern part of our country, yesterday's elections will go down in history as a mockery, which will have disastrous consequences for the dictatorship. In the following municipalites in Chalatenango Department, the electoral circus did not take place on 22 March: Dulce Nombre de Jesus, San Rafael, Azacualpa, [name indistinct], San Antonio de la Cruz, El Cacao, Las Flores, Nueva Trinidad, San Isidro, Los Ranchos, [name indistinct], Las Vueltas, Ojos de Agua, Potonico, El Carrizal, La Laguna, Comalapa, Concepcion Quezaltepeque, [name indistinct], San Francisco de Maria, [name indistinct], San Francisco Moraza, San Fernando, Tejulta, La Reina, Agua Caliente, (Villa Palma), San Miguel Tepezontes, San Ignacio, and [name indistinct]. This is a total of 30 municipalities, 30 municipalities in Chalatenango alone where election day was just like any other day. Some 90 percent of the territory of Chalatenango is free of the influence of [words indistinct] puppet. Thirty of the thirty-three municipalities in Chalatenango did not vote yesterday. Chalatenango is territory under the control of the people in arms and from here, in Chalatenango, Radio Farabundo Marti accompanies the people's victories.

Reagan's elections in El Salvador have thus failed. The disaster of these elections is a new victory for the Salvadoran people. A broadbased government is the true solution for the Salvadoran workers. The people's war against imperialist intervention and the oligarchs' exploitation will not stop with the electoral farce.

FMLN ACCUSES 3D BRIGADE OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

PA282031 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Attention, please pay attention to this intelligence report received at Radio Venceremos: An intelligence report received by the FMLN indicates that a large number of ballot boxes, blank ballots, and electoral documents are being kept by San Miguel's 3d Infantry Brigade. This material remained in the hands of military units after they fruitlessly tried to enforce voting in many towns in the country's east.

In some towns, military units following the orders of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa practically seized ballots and documents from the electoral boards after the voting had concluded. All the seized material is being kept in the headquarters of the 3d Infantry Brigade, San Miguel, on the orders of Col Monterrosa. Col Monterrosa is meeting in this headquarters with battalion commanders from eastern El Salvador. These commanders have ordered trusted officers and personnel to alter the results of the elections by marking the unused ballots, because there was no voting in many towns. The intelligence report adds that Col Monterrosa and the other officers meeting at the 3d Brigade have ordered the marking of blank votes and the forging of the corresponding electoral documents. Since early Tuesday these officers have been preparing the fraudulent ballots and the records with altered or invented results to send them to the Central Elections Council.

GUATEMALA

ANDRADE CLAIMS IGNORANCE ON U.S. BELIZE REQUEST

PA281220 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 13

[Text] No foreigner is going to come here to tell us what our government's foreign policy should be, Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade said yesterday, commenting on reports that U.S. State Department officials had asked Guatemala to give up its claims to Belize.

Foreign Minister Andrade said in his office yesterday that it is true that the official in charge of the "Guatemala desk" -- the name given to the U.S. State Department office that is in charge of matters related to Guatemala -- had visited the country. He was here for a few days. He talked about Guatemalan affairs with political, business, professional, university, and other sectors to get a broad idea of what is happening in the country, Andrade said. He talked with us about various matters of relevance and we informed him of the procedures that General Mejia Victores' government has implemented in order to return to a constitutional order.

It was rumored that the visitor had asked the government to "desist from its claim to Belize." However, the foreign minister said that he knew nothing about the alleged request. In any case, he said in closing, no foreigner is going to come here to tell us what to do.

MEJIA VICTORES ACCUSES CUBA OF HELPING REBELS

PA290341 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0225 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- General Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan head of state, today accused Cuba of continuing its military and logistical support to leftist guerrillas who have been struggling for over 20 years to reach power. The Guatemalan head of state, who is also the Guatemalan defense minister, added that the flow of foreign aid to subversives has continued, especially from Cuba, a country that provides military instruction to the rebels.

Mejia Victores explained that his government has proof that several persons who were reported to have been kidnapped have gone to "the island -- the way the subversives refer to Cuba -- to train military and logistically and later return with another name." In the last few days charges by Guatemalan military men that Cuba and Nicaragua are supporting antigovernment groups have increased.

ECUADOR TO EXTEND PROTECTION TO 8 REFUGEES

PA281940 Guatemala City El GRAFICO in Spanish 25 Mar 84 p 3

[Article by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government is prepared to protect the eight Guatemalans who sought asylum at the Ecuadoran Embassy on Friday morning. In a telephone conversation with the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry, it was learned that the Ecuadoran Government is prepared to extend protection to the eight Guatemalans. Our source in the Ecuadoran capital explained that the Ecuadoran Embassy in Guatemala has already submitted a complete report on the situation, and Ambassador Cesar Roman Gonzalez has been asked to take charge.

Our source said that the Ecuadoran press had reported the matter extensively, and that the Foreign Ministry will issue a detailed communique on the subject on Monday. Asked whether the eight Guatemalans had been fully identified, our source said that they had, but that he could not disclose the identities for security reasons. Our source also said that the Ecuadoran Government is prepared to protect the eight Guatemalans, and that they may travel to Ecuador if they wish to do so. We are also available to help the eight Guatemalans travel to another country of their choice, they said. He explained that this decision is up to the eight Guatemalans. Finally, he said that the Ecuadoran Government has been pleased with the attitude of Guatemalan Government, which has always been helpful to the Ecuadoran Embassy.

LARGE-SCALE COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATION LAUNCHED

PA281950 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 8

[Text] Guerrilla groups operating in Chuicacao are being sought. National Army units and some 2,500 Civil Self-Defense patrolmen are jointly combing the region in search of a group of guerrillas that ambushed a military patrol shortly before noon on Wednesday, killing an officer and 10 enlisted men at Valle de Oro.

A tour of the region revealed that the patrolmen and Army members are checking people and vehicles and requesting full identification all along the 20-km streth of road from this town to the road to the Pacific.

After passing several checkpoints, we arrived at the municipal capital, the downtown area of which is closely guarded by military personnel from various zones and bases. As we were waiting to talk with the commander of the area of operations, the body of a guerrilla who had been shot was brought to the local justice of the peace. It was reported that his own comrades, who had taken him away after he was wounded in a confrontation with security forces, had later killed him, perhaps because he was a hindrance to them.

The commander of the area of operations told us that in the past few days, following the attack on the military patrol, there have been four clashes with the subversives. The authorities and patrolmen have found bloodstains at the sites of the clashes, but the bodies are taken away by their comrades to be buried in a clandestine cemetery, which the security forces are trying to locate. According to the commander, six guerrilla camps have been located in the area. In these camps, the authorities have found empty food tins and indications that the guerrillas have spent the night. However, perhaps because of the location of the camps, the subversives were able to flee in time.

Our source said that the careful checks are being carried out as part of a system of controlling the population in order to keep the subversives from supplying themselves with food "right under the very noses" of the authorities. The commander added that on Thursday the residents of the municipality were not allowed to circulate in the streets at night, because several ambush points had been detected that were a danger to the lives of the residents. However, he added that as of yesterday freedom of movement had been restored, as long as people carry a safe-conduct to be presented to the patrolmen and other authorities.

The commander said that the guerrillas pressure the peasants with terrorist tactics. They kidnap residents in their area of operations and force them to collaborate, promising them land and wealth. Since the guerrillas have chosen this area for their operations, the Army has emplaced heavy weapons, pointed at the mountains, to avoid being taken by surprise.

The commander said that the guerrillas are members of ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms], and that this group is made up of some 150 men and women who stage their incursions using FAL, G-3 and Galil rifles; 30-cal machine guns, and explosives. These people follow international instructions. In this area of some 100 farms that grow cardamom, cocoa, coffee and rubber, they are sowing terror to force the peasants to flee, thereby reducing the harvest and undermining the nation's economy, the military commander said in closing.

HONDURAS

COMBINED MANEUVERS WITH U.S. ARMY COMPLETED

PA280436 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Honduran and U.S. Armies have ended the "Kilo-Punch" military maneuvers, in which Honduran paratroopers and a U.S. Airborne division engaged in parachute-jumping exercises in Palmerola and San Lorenzo. The U.S. troops that participated in the "Kilo-Punch" readiness and deployment exercises belong to the 82nd Airborne Division and to the 18th Paratroops Corps. These troops came to Honduras on 24 March from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. During their 2-day stay here they participated in training exercises with Hondruan forces near Palmerola and San Lorenzo air bases.

The "Kilo-Punch" maneuvers were successfully carried out in the presence of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, Honduran Armed Forces chief, and of Lieutenant General (Jack McHurt), commander of the 18th Paratroop Corps, who could witness the ability and fitness of the combined Honduran-U.S. forces.

PAZ BARNICA PROTESTS NICARAGUAN 'THREAT'

PA282222 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Press release issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat; no date given]

[Text] The Honduran Government, through the Foreign Secretariat, protested vigorously to the Nicaraguan Government 2 days ago over the threat to peace in the Central American area made by two top Nicaraguan leaders. The letter sent by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman states the following:

I ask your Excellency to refer to the statement made last week by Commander Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan defense minister, to the effect that local guerrilla groups could possibly proceed to mine the ports of other Central American countries, from Guatemala to Panama. The announcement in question, Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica adds, is a source of justified concern for my government, on one hand because it constitutes a clear threat of the use of force against other states, in open violation of the UN Charter, and on the other hand because it is a clear admission that the subversive groups seeking to destabilize governments in the area are operating with the support and under the control of the Nicaraguan Government.

In vigorously protesting this unthinking or deliberate statement by one of the highest representatives of the Nicaraguan Government, the Honduran Government calls Your Excellency's attention to the serious consequences that its mere utterance can have on the negotiations underway within the Contadora forum, because it tends to add to the already existing doubt about Nicaragua's good faith. If this rash threat is carried out, the Honduran Government will be obliged to exercise its obvious right to legitimate defense, and the Nicaraguan Government will bear the responsibility of having unleashed a hostile confrontation in Central America.

Once again, our government manifests its enduring commitment to peace and urges the Nicaraguan Government to act with the prudence that circumstances demand and with the certainly that in the face of an aggression of that type, Honduras will respond appropriately, though reluctantly, in compliance with its internal legislation and with the most basic principles of international law.

PAZ BARNICA ON NICARAGUA, SALVADORAN ELECTION

PA282238 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded statements by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica]

[Text] The Foreign Secretariat has lodged a strong protest note with the Nicaraguan Government over threats from its two highest leaders to the peace that prevails in Central America. Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has confirmed that Nicaragua is still seeking ways to provoke a regional conflict:

"International news agencies have reported to the world that guerrilla movements that sympathize with the Nicaraguan Government will mine the ports between Guatemala and Panama. We feel that this constitutes a highly dangerous threat from the Nicaraguan Government, once again proving the aggressive nature of the system that prevails in that neighboring country. The Honduran Government will take strong measures against a grave threat such as this, and will inform international organizations and the world community of these measures, so that they can once again assess Nicaragua's behavior, which is obviously in conflict with the attitude that you have mentioned [not further specified]

Paz Barnica added that Nicaragua is trying to further disrupt the Central American area:

"This is rendered even more grave by the fact that they are threatening a country that is a member of the Contadora, Group. This once again demonstrates the Nicaragua regime's aggressive and expansionist nature, and also proves that it plans to boycott the Contadora Group's peace efforts."

Nevertheless, Paz Barnica expressed optimism about the electoral process being undertaken by the Salvadoran people:

"The important thing is that there were elections in El Salvador and that the citizens participated in the electoral event en masse. We have no official information about the results, but we are unofficially informed that Christian Democratic candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte is in the lead by 45 percent; of course, this is unofficial information. We hope to have some official information in the next few hours. In any event, we feel that an electoral process in which the winner is a man of democratic ideals represents a highly important phase of transition toward democracy, and will contribute to the achievement of overall peace in Central America."

The Honduran foreign secretary also revelaed that Harry Shlaudeman, the U.S. ambassador who was recently appointed to replace Richard Stone, will arrive in the country next Thursday.

PAZ BARNICA SIGNS DECLARATION WITH COSTA RICA

PA271905 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The foreign ministers of Costa Rica and Honduras have issued a joint declaration in which they reaffirm the determination of both governments to find a general, regional, and peaceful solution to the Central American crisis. Costa Rica Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez ended his visit to Honduras by signing the 18-point document, with Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica.

Honduras and Costa Rica reaffirmed the unbreakable fraternal ties that unite them. These are reinforced today by the popular origin of their respective governments. At the same time they agreed that the democratic, representative and pluralist system is the only political system that can guarantee the effective exercise of freedom and full respect for human rights. They reaffirmed absolute respect for the principles of international law that must regulate the relations between countries, as set forth in the UN and OAS charters.

They call the international community's attention to the need to find the appropriate means to provide guarantees for Central America based on the principles of nonintervention, the rejection of the threat and use of force, and the utilization of peaceful means to solve controversies.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed the support of their respective governments for the Contadora Group efforts to solve the conflicts that are disrupting peace in Central America. Paz Barnica and Gutierrez consider their governments' obligation to make every effort to promote their development to achieve higher levels of economic and social welfare, in addition to establishing political institutions that will insure freedom, respect for human rights, and justice.

They appealed to the international community to undertake economic, financial, commercial, food, and technical programs to ease the internal efforts being made by the Central American countries to achieve peaceful development and transformation.

They emphasized the importance for the meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank governors to be held soon in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, to evaluate the conclusions of the Brussels meeting and to define the action to be taken on Central American integration and economic development, among other topics. They expressed the need for better and broader access to the international markets [3-second break in transmission] the United States through the Caribbean Basin Initiative corresponds to conduct that should be adopted by other developed countries.

The two foreign ministers expressed support for the U.S. bipartisan commission on Central America because of its serious concern about the political, economic, social, and security problems of the region. They analyzed their recent visit to Washington, expressed support for the meeting of health ministers of Central America and Panama about sanitation requirements, and expressed their interest and determination in intensifying bilateral relations. They reaffirmed their desire to cooperate in the establishment of joint plans and projects to consolidate their economic independence, peace, and the security of the area, as well as to make the necessary efforts to revitalize every aspect of the economic integration program.

The 18-point declaration between Edgardo Paz Barnica and Jose Gutierrez was signed last Saturday.

NICARAGUA REPORTEDLY ATTACKS BORDER TOWNS

PA271933 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 29

[Article by Juan Ramon Aguilera Z.]

[Text] Santa Marta, 25 Mar -- Some 300 residents of this village, 3 km from the Nicaraguan border, fled today after being bombarded by members of Nicaragua's Sandinist People's Army.

The attack on Santa Marta took place at 0500 today. Townspeople were forced to leave their homes because of bombs hurled by the Sandinists.

Francisco Cepeda, one of the workers who fled from the Sandinist fire, explained that grenades and shells of various calibers fell between the towns of Santa Marta and La Burrera. "We had to evacuate, because we believe there may be another attack tonight.

Several of the peasants, who have now been resettled in Choluteca, also reported having heard more than eight loud explosions near their homes, but said that "no Hondurans were injured" because no homes were destroyed. The residents of Santa Marta also complained of the lack of adequate military protection in the area.

NICARAGUA

LIBERIAN FLAG SHIP HITS MINE AT CORINTO

PA282254 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2233 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A ship bearing a Liberian flag hit a mine in the Port of Corinto today, suffering damage as a result. The extent of that damage is now being evaluated by the Sandinist government, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has reported.

The vessel was leaving the Bay of Corinto on the Pacific coast carrying 10,000 tons of molasses when it hit the mine at 1005 (1605 GMT) today. The Foreign Ministry said that the vessel hit the mine while passing between bouys No 1 and No 2 at Nicaragua's most important port.

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA290050 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry in Managua on 28 March]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry announces to the people that at 1005 today, a ship named the "Intershafer," sailing under a Liberian flag, was leaving the Port of Corinto with 10,000 tons of molasses when it hit a mine as it was passing buoys No 2 and No 3, causing an explosion. The Nicaraguan authorities are investigating the resulting damage.

The Nicaraguan Government holds the U.S. Government responsible for the victims and damage resulting from this incident. There is no doubt that these mines were placed in Nicaragua's ports on the orders of and with the direct complicity of the CIA, which is about to receive a further $21 million to continue these terrorist activities.

This criminal action adds new victims, probably Liberians, to the Nicaraguans, Panamanians, Soviets and Netherlanders who have been killed and injured in previous incidents.

The terrorist policy pursued by the U.S. Government against Nicaragua directly affects international maritime traffic along Central America's coasts and is intended to sabotage the Contadora Group's efforts to secure peace. This senseless policy pursued by the U.S. Government is unquestionably the basic obstacle to the efforts carried out by the Contadora Group in favor of peace, and to the promotion of a climate of understanding and confidence that would permit the Contadora working commissions to progress in their tasks.

The facts prove to us that there is no alternative but to demand the U.S. Government to end this policy, so that we may progress effectively toward peace.

The Nicaraguan Government once again reiterates its willingness to continue the struggle for peace in Central America, and appeals to the international community to provide Nicaragua with the technical and military means necessary to defend itself from the terrorism being unleashed by the U.S. Government.

SERGIO RAMIREZ DISCUSSES CONTADORA, U.S. POLICY

PA281722 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has approved the electoral law as it was passed by the State Council on 15 March. Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Government Junta, disclosed yesterday that he has instructed the official daily LA GACETA and the Directorate of Information and Press of the junta to publish the electoral law within the next few days through all of the nation's media.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How does the Government Junta view Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's current tour through Latin American countries to bolster Contadora's peace efforts?

[Ramirez] We feel that this initiative is very valuable. We view it as a positive gesture on the part of Mexico to promote peace in Central America and to bring an end to the attcks on Nicaragua. Reflecting the importance we attach to this tour, Commander Daniel Ortega traveled to Mexico before President De la Madrid's departure in order to give him our views, and he showed great understanding of them. In some remarks at an event to mark the anniversary of Benito Juarez' birthday before leaving on the tour, President De la Madrid expressed support for Contadora's renewed peace efforts and rejected all military attacks on Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Nicaragua has again called on the Contadora Group to speed up its peace efforts. What results do you expect from this call, which was made today?

[Ramirez] We have said that the efforts of the Contadora Group -- which is the only option for peace in Central America -- are weakened by the U.S. intransigence and the state terrorism that the U.S. Government is practicing against Nicaragua. It is constantly boycotting and torpedoing the Contadora Group's efforts. We think that the Contadora Group should move on to a new stage, that it should make its actions more dynamic, and that it should demand that the United States adopt truly responsible negotiating positions.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about the new landing of North American soldiers in Honduras?

[Ramirez] This is part of the escalation of the war in Central America by the United States. There are already over 14 military airports in Honduras, and many North American soldiers are permanently stationed in Honduras, which actually makes Honduras a North American military base. The maneuvers include airborne exercises from South Carolina and the Panama Canal to Honduras. Troops, planes, ships, and aircraft carriers are being moved every day. They are beating the war drums in Central America and trying to intimidate the Nicaraguan people. However, we know what to expect from this aggressive spirit of the Reagan administration and will redouble our defense efforts and remain on the alert. [end recording]

Giving his opinion about the call made by the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] to the opposition political parties to abstain from participating in the elections, Ramirez Mercado said:

[Begin Ramirez recording, in progress] ...(?acting) in this case as a political party and wants to supplant the true political parties in Nicaragua.

As we understand it, the role of the gentlemen of COSEP is to produce cotton, coffee, and meat. However, they are arrogating political functions. There is freedom for (?everything) here. The laws on elections and parties grant the political parties full guarantees to participate in these elections. COSEP cannot participate unless it formally becomes a political party, although in fact it is acting like a party. [end recording]

HUMBERTO ORTEGA TO DEPART FOR USSR, DPRK

PA290351 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Communique No 9 released by the General Directorate for Dissemination and Press of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua on 28 March]

[Text] The General Directorate for Dissemination and Press of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction reports to the people of Nicaragua that:

A high-level military delegation led by Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra will travel tomorrow, 29 March, to the DPRK and the USSR on behalf of the FSLN and the Government of National Reconstruction. The official delegation also includes Guerrilla Commander Javier Carrion, chief of the 3d Military Region of the PS [Sandinist People's Army] and Sandinist Assembly member; Guerrilla Commander Omar Hallesleven, chief of the EPS 2d Directorate and Sandinist Assembly member; Guerrilla Commander Richard Lugo, Commander of the Sandinist Navy and guest of the Sandinist Assembly; and Commander Carlos Brenes, chief of the EPS Tank Corps and Sandinist Assembly member.

STATE COUNCIL DENIES CHANCE OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

PA281936 Managua EL NEUVO DIARIO in Spanish 20 Mar 84 p 10

[Excerpt] Over 5,000 electoral voting booths, or Electoral Boards, will be operating in Nicaragua during the electoral campaign that will lead to the election of a president and a vice president of the Republic on 4 November. A total of 90 representatives to the National Assembly, which will replace the State Council, will also be elected. These boards will have a president and a secretary appointed by the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE), as well as representatives from all the political parties, who will participate in the elections from the registration period through election day on 4 November. This clearly indicates that any fraud will be virtually impossible either during the registration period or on election day.

The revolutionary government has promised absolutely clean, free, and honest elections, as guaranteed by the political parties law approved in September 1983 and the electoral law approved on 15 March 1984.

Deputy Commander Rafel Solis, secretary of the State Council, said that in addition to all guarantees offered to the parties by the above laws, international observers and correspondents invited to witness the process will be present. This will be planned as and will show itself to be "an electoral model for Latin America and many other nations of the world."

COAST GUARD VESSEL DAMAGES 'PIRANHA' SPEEDBOAT

PA281845 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1801 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- For the first time a Sandinist Navy Coast Guard vessel last night damaged a "Piranha" speedboat during a clash in the Port of Corinto, the radio station of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua reported today.

According to the government report, the rapid "enemy" boat launched an attack in the sector of "Pilot Station 5" in Corinto Bay, where several boats were anchored. The Sandinist Coast Guard vessel that was patrolling the sector repelled the attack, firing several shots at the "Piranha" speedboat and causing a fire in the boat's cabin. According to the reports, two other "Piranha" speedboats suddenly entered the action and launched an attack with heavy riflefire on the Nicaraguan Coast Guard vessel.

The government radio station said that the following members of the Sandinist Navy were injured: Julio Diaz, Jose Renato Bermudez, and Sergio Hernandez. Corinto is Nicaragua's principal Pacific port and was also attacked last year by "Piranha" speedboats, resulting in the destruction of important fuel depots of those port installations.

Further On Boat Attack

PA282046 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Three Sandinist Navy members were wounded last night in the vicinity of Corinto when "Piranha"-type boats attacked Patrol Boat No 300 of the Sandinist People's Navy. The action took place at 2300 last night. Julio Diaz, 20; Jose Bermudez, 17; and Sergio Hernandez were wounded in the counterrevolutionary attack in Nicaraguan waters very close to the port. These members of our Navy are being treated in hospitals in Corinto and Leon. The enemies of our people entered our territory and carried out this criminal action from three "Piranha"-type boats and an unidentified plane. In response to this attack, the Sandinist Navy opened fire and hit one of the boats, which caught fire and withdrew toward Honduran waters.

ARMY REPORTS 45 REBELS KILLED IN CHINANDEGA

PA282034 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] wiped out at least 45 counterrevolutionaries from a task force of some 200 men who entered El Rodeo, in Somotillo municipality, Chinandega Department, Commander Javier Pichardo, commander of the EPS's 1st military zone, has reported. The group, led by rebel leaders whose aliases are (Zeo) and (Okra), was running away from Nueva Segovia and Madriz Departments, where they had sustained heavy blows after entering from Honduras. On Monday the EPS clashed with the Somozist mercenaries at El Rodeo, 20 km east of Somotillo, where 45 counterrevolutionaries were annihilated. The clash lasted 2 and 1/2 hours. The military officer reported that two unidentified planes flew over the Port of Corinto and El Chonco Volcano. The planes were repelled by the antiaircraft defenses of the port and military units in the area.

FDN CLAIMS OCCUPATION OF SAN RAFAEL DEL NORTE

PA261805 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1644 GMT 26 Mar 84

[By Francisco Javier Mejia]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) announced in Tegucigalpa today that it occupied the city of San Rafael del Norte in Jinotega province, in the northern part of Nicaragua. San Rafael del Norte, only 23 km from the provincial capital, is one of the main redoubts of the Augusto Cesar Sandino forces and is the birthplace of the legendary general's wife, Blanca Arauz.

According to an FDN spokesman, San Rafael del Norte was occupied after an intense 6 hour combat and after San Gabriel Bridge, which linked the township with the departmental capital, Jinotega, was destroyed. During the attack the Sandinist military garrison in San Rafael del Norte, a gas station, three Soviet-made vehicles, and several arms depots were destroyed by the insurgents. According to the FDN spokesman, the rebel forces seized more than 100 automatic AK-47 rifles, 1 RPK-7.72 machine gun, and other war material during the fighting. The rebels remained in the occupied city for 5 hours, during which they held a political rally with the 8,000 inhabitants, many of whom, according to the guerrilla front, spontaneously extended their support to the insurgents. No figures were given on any casualties, although the spokesman indicated that Sandinist circles had recognized that the Army had sustained numerous casualties in that sector during the fierce fighting. Meanwhile, the rebel radio station "15 September" reported that a Sandinist Air Force helicopter was downed by insurgents last Friday near Siuna in northwestern Nicaragua.

VOICE OF SANDINO BROADCASTS ARDE WAR BULLETINS

Casualties Inflicted

PA221311 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 21 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 197 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, on 17 March]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world:
1. At 0500 on 14 March, in Melchora, in the area of La Azucena, Rio San Juan Department, a squad of the Wenceslao Aviles Column, under the command of Companero Carlos, clashed with patrols of the pro-Soviet EPS [Sandinist People's Army] inflicting five casualties on them.

2. At 0800 on 15 March, the Jose Ramon Chavez Bustos Column of the [word indistinct] zone, under the command of [words indistinct] zone, under the command of Companero Jaguar, clashed with an enemy patrol, which replied with rifle and mortar fire. We silenced a .30-caliber machine gun and inflicted two dead and several wounded on the enemy.

3. When it was exploring the area of [name indistinct], 20 km southeast of El Tablon, Nueva Guinea, the General Francisco Estrada Column of the Colmillo 5 Unit detected a 200-man detachment of the interventionist army.

With the coordination of members of the Barba 1 Unit, under the command of Companero Cobra, they attacked the enemy at 1100 and were able to neutralize them with two 60-mm mortars. They inflicted 21 dead and many wounded on the enemy. After approximately 3 hours of fighting and in the face of the fighting spirit of our forces, the frightened enemy decided to flee the battlefield.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Patrol Attacked

PA240237 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 23 Mar 84

["War Bulletin No 200 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, free Nicaraguan territory," on 23 March]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, informs the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world that on 21 March at 1700, at the place known as (El Socorro de Sabalo), 4 km southwest of the El Castillo fortress in Rio San Juan, three squads from the Domingo Antonio Giron Column of the Barba Unit, led by Companeros Roberto and Pepe, clashed with a patrol from the pro-Soviet army, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], causing them seven deaths and several injuries and forcing them to withdraw. Meanwhile, one of our companeros was injured.

On 22 March at 2150, taking advantage of the darkness, two cells of the ARDE southwestern internal front, led by Companeros Domingo and Adolfo, in the place known as La Pimienta, 13 km northeast of Sapoa, Rivas Department, attacked a patrol of the invading army, causing them eight fatalities.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

General Command of the ARDE Armed Forces

ARDE RELEASES COMMUNIQUE ON MINING OF PORTS

PA240059 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Communique from ARDE: Sandinist Revolutionary Front FRS; Christian Democratic Solidarity Front, FSDC; Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity Southern Indigenous Creole Communities, MISURASATA SICC; Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN; Nicaraguan Democratic Workers Solidarity, STDN; and Nicaraguan Democratic Union-Nicaraguan Revolutionary Armed Forces, UDN-FARN; released in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, free Nicaraguan territory, 23 March]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, reiterates to the Nicaraguan people and to the international community that due to the urgent need to stop the flow of arms and war materiel that the cruel Stanlinist military dictatorship of the FSLN receives from Russian imperialism and its lackeys to murder our people, the Nicaraguan ports were mined by our specialized Barracuda commandos on the Atlantic and Lidia Maradiaga commandos of the Sandinist internal resistance on the Pacific.

We consider these tactics legitimate and sovereign actions in defense of our people, who have helped in our struggle to rescue Nicaragua from foreign domination. The cruel dictatorship has acted with deep criminal irresponsibility in authorizing the arrival of shipments, ignoring the high risk that this represents. The Nicaraguan ports are war zones and will remain so until we achieve final victory against the foreign oppressors and their national servants.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

General Command of the ARDE Armed Forces

[Signed] Eden Pastora Gomez, general commander

PASTORA EXPLAINS ARDE PRINCIPLES, SANDINISM

PA272025 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Commander Eden Pastora, leader of the ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] forces in southern Nicaragua, will now use this clandestine radio stations's microphones to discuss information released by foreign agencies regarding the patriotic struggle of the alliance against the totalitarianism of the nine commissars. Our commander reiterates that our politico-military groups, struggling in southern Nicaragua for the democratic rescue of the revolution, are the true revolutionaries.

[Begin Pastora recording] For over 2 years we have been telling the world and the people of Nicaragua about the revolution. For over 2 years we have been telling all the national and foreign news agencies about Sandinism, because we are revolutionaries. I, personally, am very Sandinist, because I am nationalist, anti-imperialist, and opposed to interventions and the expansionist policies of those powers promoting the hegemony of the world.

Unfortunately, some news agencies have distorted this and gone along with leftist news agencies, thus abetting the totalitarian leftist currents. They have confused the people of the world and have placed us, ARDE, in the same boat with the counterrevolution. We are not counterrevolutionaries, and we will not allow the counterrevolution to triumph. I mention this because of a recent communique we released stating that the mining of the ports and coast of Nicaragua -- currently war zones -- would continue until the Marxist-Leninist totalitarian government of Managua surrendered. However, news agencies have distorted and manipulated this and have said that we would maintain the mining until the counterrevolution triumphed. We ARDE, and I, personally, will not allow the counterrevolution to win. We will maintain the mines until the communist totalitarian government of Managua falls.

The counterrevolution will never triumph in Nicaragua, that is what I wanted to say tonight. I want everyone to understand that we are Sandinists. Saying that we are anti-Sandinists only leads to confusion. We are not counterrevolutionaries, and anyone saying that we are is only helping the Managua government. If they continue in this stance they will become suspect, suspect of cooperating with the Managua government. From now on there can be no more confusion.

ARDE is definitely Sandinist. I am a Sandinist, and I will die a Sandinist and a revolutionary. Let this be very clear to everyone, the nationalist flag -- the Sandinist flag, the black and red flag -- cannot be removed by anyone, not even those with the red flag of the hammer and the sickle -- the communist flag. Communism will never stop Sandinism. Free fatherland or death. [end recording]

SOVIET NAVAL OFFICERS MEET WITH COUNTERPARTS

FL281255 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and FAR minister, has received Rear Admiral Fedor Starozhilov, head of the Soviet Naval flotilla, who has been in Cuba since 26 March on an official and friendly visit. The meeting took place at the MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] offices where the Soviet Navy flotilla officers, Division Generals Abelardo Colome Ibarra and Ulises Rosales del Toro, and Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado were also present.

Army General Raul Castro said during the meeting, which was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, that the visit was a new contribution toward strengthening the unbreakable ties of friendship between the Soviet and Cuban peoples.

The Soviet Naval officers paid tribute to Jose Marti yesterday, and, during the ceremony held at Revolution Square, Rear Admiral Fedor Starozhilov placed a floral wreath at the Jose Marti Monument.

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES MEMBER OF UK TRADE GROUP

FL281600 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Lord Taylor of Gryfe, chairman of the Morgan Greffell (Scotland Ltd) Bank and member of the British delegation to the Anglo-Cuban Trade Committee. This committee is holding its first bilateral meeting in Havana.

Another British delegation, made up of Parliament members, has been visiting the Cuban capital for the past few days, invited by the National Assembly of the People's Government.

CEREMONY COMMEMORATES ANGOLA'S ANNIVERSARY

FL281449 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The solidarity between Angola and Cuba has been reiterated in an event held in Havana to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the victory of the People's Republic of Angola over the aggressive troops of South African racists and the reactionary forces. Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo, presided over the ceremony organized by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples and the Cuba-Africa Friendship Association.

A keynote speech was given by Jaime Crombet, member of the party's Secretariat, who said that 27 March is a date to be noted in the glorious battles of the Angolan people. He said it marks a memorable milestone in the historic victory over imperialism, the racists, and their allies.

JOINT DOCUMENT ISSUED WITH UPPER VOLTA ON C.A.

FL281402 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Upper Voltan Foreign Minister Hama Arba Diallo have denounced in Niamey the warlike intentions of U.S. imperialism in Nicaragua and the actions against Salvadoran patriots struggling for their liberation. The solution to the Central American conflicts must be the result of negotiations that include all the parties involved, the declaration issued in the capital [as heard] of Upper Volta added.

The note expressed the two nations' support for the Contadora Group efforts for Central American peace and praised the excellent outlook of the development of relations between Upper Volta and Cuba.

3-DAY MOURNING DECREED FOR GUINEA PRESIDENT

FL281925 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Cuba's Council of State has decreed 3 days of official mourning for Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. The decree states that during this period, the Cuban flag will fly at half-mast and that the FAR and Foreign Affairs Ministries will be in charge of enforcing the decree.

FAR OFFICER DISCUSSES SHELTERS, FORTIFICATIONS

FL281945 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Interview with Major Raul Cano Santana of an antiaircraft missile brigade, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We would like you to tell us about the preparation of shelters and fortifications in this command [not further identified].

[Cano Santana] Ever since the FAR minister ordered the construction of various shelters, we have been engaged in implementing a plan to build all kinds of shelters that would guarantee the best mobility of our Armed Forces, particularly that of our unit. Regarding this, we praise the great enthusiasm of all our comrades -- officers, sergeants, and soldiers -- who have been involved in the construction together with the builders of various enteprises that helped us build this type of shelter and fortification. The workers of these enterprises have been very helpful to our unit and we have witnessed how the FAR troops and these workers have become closer.

[Reporter] It was learned that pre-university students have stated that they want to participate in this project. What is your opinion of this?

[Cano Santana] In this regard, we must say that it is a very good idea. It establishes ties between the students and the FAR members and familiarizes the students with the work that must be done. It must be said that this fortification and engineering project is no easy job. We have a plan through which we will soon work with the students. They will participate in engineering works, as well as in the camouflaging of our military unit.

FAR ASKS YOUNG WOMEN TO JOIN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

FL281919 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The FAR is calling on young women in Havana City and Havana provinces to register in the voluntary military service for women. The requirements for registering are:

1. To be between 18 and 25 years old;
2. To have completed ninth grade;
3. To be single and without children;
4. To be physically and mentally fit; and
5. To be willing to serve in the FAR for 2 years.

Those interested must request registration forms at rank and file organizations of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], that is at the delegation, block, or municipality level. The registration forms for pre-candidates must be presented to the secretary of the FMC delegation where they live before 10 April 1984. At the conclusion of the voluntary military service, these young women will have an opportunity to work at the FAR as civilians or as military, to continue military studies as established by the FAR, or to apply for admission at the university in the case of those who complete pre-university studies.

TELEVISION SERVICE FOR TOURISTS ANNOUNCED

FL281610 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1204 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Our country will soon have a free 12-hour-a-day tourist color television service. This service will initially be offered only to the main hotels in Havana and will subsequently be extended to the beaches in the eastern region and in Varadero. Ten to 15 percent of each day's programming will be made up of information concerning optional offers, airline announcements, and stores for tourists. The rest of the time will be devoted to foreign films and Cuban tourist documentaries. The hotels included in this plan will have a television set in each room.

CHILEANS IN HAVANA CONDEMN PINOCHET REPRESSION

FL281645 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Chileans residing in Cuba have condemned, in Havana, the repression unleashed by the Augusto Pinochet regime against the people in that South American country where the fourth national protest drive has been held.

Sources at the information center of the Committee of Solidarity with Chile reported that police used combat weapons to face demonstrations in Santiago, Antofagasta, Concepcion, Valparaiso, and Valdivia, among others. Partial [word indistinct] show the success of the drive during which transportation was almost paralyzed, many students did not attend schools, and there were meetings and rallies near the barricades.

The regime stained the protest drive in Chile with blood but the people succeeded despite the terror in their struggle to have a true democracy.

JOURNALISTS SCORE U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS

FL281612 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1232 GMT 28 Mar 84

[International commentary by Alvarez Quinones of the daily GRANMA and Ismael Tantao of Revista de la Manana editorial staff]

[Text] [Tantao] Today we are going to devote these 10 minutes with comrade Alvarez Quinones, our colleague from the daily GRANMA, to examine some aspects of the sea adventures -- they have to be called something -- to examine the new maneuvers Ocean Venture-84 which have been highlighted by some international news agencies these past few days. More than 30,000, or some 30,000, U.S. troops will participate in it.

We feel it is a topic we can discuss and examine as a result of the situation being faced by the Central American area. This is a point of conflict in recent times, recent days, and recent months. First we wish to point out that these U.S. maneuvers will last until 6 May and will take place in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and our area, in front of the Guantanamo Naval Base. So go ahead, Quinones.

[Quinones] In reality this is a case of one maneuver right after the other. Everybody must have realized that they are making up names for the different maneuvers. It is a plan to maintain an increasingly permanent U.S. presence in the area. For example, the Big Pine maneuvers have just concluded, Grenadier I will begin next Sunday, 1 April, and on 20 April, approximately, the Ocean Venture-84 that you mentioned will begin. It is a case of one maneuver right after the other. It is a permanent situation, a permanent U.S. presence in the area. It is unnecessary to mention each maneuver, because following this one there will be another. Twenty hours before the announcement of Grenadier I, the one you mentioned was reported. That is an extremely large one. It will take place in the southeast part of the United States, in the Caribbean Sea, in the Atlantic Ocean, and in the Gulf of Mexico. It is a big one. Admiral Ralph Hedges said the United States will demonstrate it is capable of safeguarding its citizens residing in Cuba and other Caribbean countries.

We were surprised when we read the report. At the end it states that there are some U.S. residents on the Guantanamo Base. I suppose those are the base officers. It sounds a bit strange. Someone else would have been more candid and explained that it is a U.S. show of force, which is the truth.

[Tantao] The fact that this Ocean Venture-84, in which 30,000 U.S. troops will participate, will take place following the Grenadier I, whose objective is the struggle against insurgents on the border with El Salvador, draws our attention. I would like to show the viewers this map with the dark areas occupied by the Salvadoran guerrillas. [Camera closes in to show map] These are the areas occupied by the guerrillas.

Ocean Venture-84 will begin soon and will continue until 6 Mary. It begins on 20 April. These two maneuvers will overlap. This must be kept in mind because of the tactics which will be used against insurgents as well as the military equipment brought into the area. These elements must be kept in mind because Nicaragua, for example, is a target from the Pacific, from the Atlantic, and from Honduras. They are creating an infrastructure there which includes eight landing strips that can handle C-130 aircraft.

[Quinones] I have a wire here from a western agency which would be interesting to read. It states that Honduras has become a U.S. bridgehead in Central America. This makes it possible for the North Americans to observe directly what goes on in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The United States is maintaining arsenals, training centers, and air bases in Honduras. According to a report of the magazine NEWSWEEK, the Pentagon will shortly have eight landing strips, capable of handling C-130 aircraft, and five large military installations. When a western news agency comments on this, it is evident that the United States has a base of operations in Honduras. Part of these maneuvers will also take place on the border with Nicaragua, because two airports are under construction in Jamastran and Cucuyagua, which are 20 km from Nicaragua.

Everybody knows that U.S. military deployments, not only Grenadier I, but all those following it are nothing new, that their purpose is to instill fright in the area. The United States has always considered the Caribbean and Central America as a lake, a mere nostrum, and the backyard of the United States. This is nothing new.

However, people are no longer frightened by this type of deployment. After the Cuban revolution, no one has been frightened when the U.S. battleships show up. In this case, they not only have battleships but an aircraft carrier -- America -- of 80,000 tons with 250 aircraft and nine support men-of-war. It is an increasingly larger deployment of might. In realtiy, it is the Reagan administration's attempt to frighten the Cuban revolution and Nicaragua, specifically.

[Tantao] By noting this, you recall the great strategy of the current U.S. administration. We remember that since Reagan assumed power, the objectives of a superpower, that great objective of revitalizing values of the great U.S. nation, the hegemony, that arrogance of hegemonic superpower are all elements which must be kept in mind when evaluating the overall strategy of the current administration.

[Quinones] Senator Kennedy said yesterday that the only thing the Reagan administration has done is to deploy forces. This was also done by Teddy Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, all those U.S. presidents during the first years of this century. They conducted the famous gunboat policy, and now the Reagan administration is revitalizing a 60- or 70-year-old policy for the purpose of regaining hegemony in the western world.

[Tantao] There is something else that draws our attention. It is not only direct confrontation, which is a principle in U.S. foreign policy, imperialism's direct confrontation against the USSR, against socialism, but here we observe another element in its position before the liberation movements. This is something that must be kept in mind when evaluating imperialism's opposition to all other elements, for example socialism, which is opposed to essential contradiction, the international workers' movement, the international communist movement, all these are inside the capitalist countries themselves, the national liberation movements. In this concrete case, we see one of the essential contradictions, that of imperialism against national liberation movements. This show of force is precisely because of that.

[Quinones] In the case of Central America and the Caribbean, the United States is the only one which has intervened militarily. They have intervened more than 100 times. It is well known that the United States has intervened militarily. However, now there is talk that Cuba is intervening. In reality, before the Cuban revolution existed before the Soviet state existed the United States was already intervening in the area. So this cannot be believed, no one will believe it.

We are being told there is no time left. This is a very interesting statement because it is dangerous in essence. It is believed that prior to elections in November in the United States, there will be no intervention, but we must watch very closely because the possibility cannot be discarded. I do not believe we have much left to say, perhaps you want to add something.

[Tantao] I would like to say that we could discuss these maneuvers at another time, perhaps while the maneuvers are taking place. Also I would like to recall that the United States, since World War II, has used its Armed Forces more than 200 times to impose its principles of foreign policy, a foreign policy which is sick and which responds to a sick system. I believe we should talk more about this in the future.

BARBADOS' IDB DELEGATE TO LOOK AT POLICIES

FL271706 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] One of the Caribbean delegates at an Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] meeting, Clyde Griffith, minister of state in the Barbados Ministry of Finance and Planning, said he hoped to get a look at the IDB's programs and policies toward projects in the Caribbean.

Mr Griffith said the Inter-American Development Bank's recent meeting in Uruguay is a useful tool for resolving difficulties with projects in the Caribbean and clearing up misinterpretations.

OECS VIEWS FOREIGN PROMOTION OF AREA COUNTRIES ABROAD

FL282032 Bridgetown CANA in English 1925 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 28 (CANA) -- The desire of eastern Caribbean governments to exercise more control in the promotion of their countries abroad may result in major changes in existing arrangements for joint overseas representation among member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Director-General Dr Vaughan Lewis has said here. At present, five of the seven member states of the regional sub-grouping share joint representation in Ottawa and London, and questions are being raised as to the extent of the benefits of this arrangement. Dr Lewis said that in the face of financial stringency among member governments, the Organisation was also looking at the countries or institutions in which the authority collectively or its individual members really needed to have representation.

For instance, governments are asking whether there is a basis for upgrading relations with the European Economic Community and therefore establish some representation in Brussels, he said.

Prime Minister John Compton, has raised the question of establishing some form of OECS representation in the Far East to take advantage of the possibility of investment and securing finance from that part of the world. The OECS governments are also questioning the extent to which the joint representation structure had adequately met the requirements of each individual country, Dr Lewis said.

"Governments are now expressing the desire to exercise more national initiative in promoting their islands abroad, than they did when they were simply associated states, and had minimal activity in the area of external relations," Dr Lewis said. He said:

"We are looking at the question of whether the structure we have of a single high commissioner or ambassador representing all the islands is adequate."

Dr Lewis said the governments have commissioned the Secretariat here to carry out a review of the existing arrangements for overseas representation on the basis of proposals that will come from the governments involved. He said the Secretariat will look at the structure of missions, the question of what new areas need to be established and if it is possible in a period of budgetary restraint to establish new relationships.

"We will also consider what the focus of our diplomatic representation would be, whether we should now have a much greater concentration on the question of trade and finances than we have had in the past, and how we can service the large number of nationals that now live in many of the metropolitan capitals," he said. Dr. Lewis said it is expected that when the authority meets in May, the Secretariat will be in a position to present a report to the foreign affairs officials and their ministers, and to have some recommendations ready for the OECS heads of government on this question.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BIRD SEEKS TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT, CALL ELECTIONS

FL282340 Bridgetown CANA in English 2311 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 28 (CANA) -- Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Vere Bird, today requested Governor-General Sir Wilfred Jacobs to dissolve Parliament effective tomorrow to pave way for general elections. He did not announce an election date.

The announcement came amid intense election campaigning by four political parties here -- the ruling Antigua Labour Party, the United People's Movement, the Progressive Labour Movement, and the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement. The announcement also means that Antiguans and Barbudans will be going to the polls one year ahead of schedule.

The last general election was held in April 1980 when the Vere Bird administration received a mandate to take the twin island state into independence.

BAHAMAS

PRIME MINISTER'S LAWYERS TO SUE NBC FOR SLANDER

FL281538 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] A Bahamas Supreme Court has granted an order to the prime minister's lawyers allowing them to take legal action against the National Broadcasting Corporation of the United States, NBC, and its news reporter Brian Ross. The order was applied for Monday by the law firm of Felegman, Maynard and Co. on behalf of the prime minister. In an affidavit requesting the order, the prime minister's lawyers are contending that NBC and Ross libeled and slandered the prime minister in its two weeks of reports on illegal drug activities in the Bahamas.

Some five reports in all are mentioned, beginning on 5 September 1983 and ending on 22 February 1984. The suit is claiming extemporary and aggravated damages.

A writ will be served to the defendants in the United States and they will have 30 days after the service to enter an occurrence in the action. The lawyers are contending that Ross, through NBC, published work and images defamatory to the prime minister, alleging that he had bribes from drug smugglers and in return used his office and position as prime minister to protect the drug smugglers.

BARBADOS

SOUTH KOREAN VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT REACHED

FL282354 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 28 (CANA) -- Barbados today anounced it had concluded a visa abolition agreement with South Korea under which nationals of both countries holding valid passports are free to travel to either country without the necessity of obtaining an entry visa in advance.

The only proviso is that the travellers intended stay does not exceed 90 days, and is not for employment, a government statement said. The agreement extends also to Korean and Barbadian seamen in possession of Seamen's books and of embarkation or disembarkation orders from competent authorities, arriving from any country and proceeding through either country in order to reach their port of embarkation or to return home, the statement added.

Nationals of either country wishing to stay in the other country longer than 90 days, or who wish to engage in lucrative or paid activities will be required to obtain an entry visa in advance, which if approved will be issued free of charge.

Barbados and South Korea established diplomatic relations on November 15, 1977.

EPC PLAN SETS GOALS FOR NONSUGAR EXPORTS

FL242004 Bridgetown CANA in English 1751 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 24 (CANA) -- With uncertainty plaguing the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Market, Barbados' best long term hope for selling its manufactured goods abroad lies in the recovering economies of North America and Europe, according to the government agency here responsible for promoting exports.

The Export Promotion Corporation (EPC) in its 1984-85 action plan projects non sugar sales abroad this year totalling 608 million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) -- 12 per cent more than last year's 581.6 million dollars.

"Most Barbadian exporters can obtain a niche in selected North American and European markets provided the price, design and quality of their products are right for the chosen markets," the EPC document said. And the corporation said it would provide "a range of services and financial assistance to exporters to enable them to meet these criteria."

The EPC said it expected to have a trade representative in place in New York by the beginning of next year, and export promotion missions were planned for the southern U.S. city of Houston, as well as to Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica between next month and March 1985.

Technical assistance for local manufacturers in 1984-85 will include a study of the rum market in the United Kingdom, paid for by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC). The CFTC will also fund a project that will see Barbados' mahogany furniture producers displaying their products to interested buyers in Miami and New York in June. The samples will be based on styling directions and guidance from a New York consulting firm.

The EPC said it would provide the garment sector with export technical assistance to help it penetrate markets in the developed world.

The services of a factory manager, work study engineer, and pattern grader will be secured to work with selected garment companies under a project supported by the European Development Fund (EDF).

Reflecting on 1983 the EPC report said local manufacturers were forced to operate "in conditions of quite unacceptable levels of uncertainty." This was a reference to currency and import licensing difficulties which dogged trade with Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago respectively. Said the EPC: "The result of all this has been a serious weakening of the regional market for Barbadian products. Despite the difficult trading environment, Barbadian manufacturers may take some credit in that they were able to maintain the same level of exports, to the MDCs (more developed countries of Caricom) in 1983 as in 1982 and the LDCs (less developed countries) suffered only a 6.7 per cent decline (amounting to less than 3 million dollars).

"Despite a decline of 3 per cent in our exports to Trinidad and Tobago, our exports to Jamaica increased by 8.7 per cent and Guyana by 46.9 per cent (although in dollar terms this only amounted to just under a million dollars). Unfortunately, there is no reason for optimism about the Caricom situation in the short term. ... The economies of North America and Europe do appear to be on the road to recovery. It is the view of the corporation that our best hope for the long term future of Barbados' manufactured exports must lie in the markets of these developed countries."

The corporation listed among its main objectives for the coming year:

To establish full time representation in the United States of America and part-time representation in Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Martinique. This will be in addition to existing representation in Trinidad and Tobago and in Margarita, Venezuela.

To further develop and maintain a first rate and effective system of information collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination geared to the needs of Barbadian exporters both directly and through the corporation's marketing advisory service.

To carry out field research in the U.S.A. (Houston, Miami), Canada (Toronto), the Dominican Republic, and Colombia.

To organise missions to overseas markets based on our research findings.

To arrange and ensure the effective use of technical assistance to the furniture, garments, and rum sectors.

To further develop the marketing advisory service and to continue its emphasis whereby individual officers are attached to individual companies and function as an extension of the company's marketing arm working on the company's behalf within the BEPC.

To effectively utilise the export grant and incentive scheme as a tool for assisting exporters in undertaking development of new export markets.

DOMINICA

PRIME MINISTER ON TRADE PROBLEMS WITH GUYANA

FL281855 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles says her country's trade problems with Guyana may be resolved next month.

Last month Guyana stopped buying Dominican soap and Dominica stopped buying Guyana's rice, in what was widely viewed as a reaction of Guyana's opposition to the U.S. intervention in Grenada.

The prime minister said the problems go deeper than that, she noted lack of foreign exchange and lack of actual money to pay for products. Prime Minister Charles said that only by meeting and talking over trade problems can solutions be reached. And, Dominica is working to encourage new industries on the island and has offered some incentives for that purpose. These incentives include a tax and industry exemptions on equipment and raw materials for a specified period.

The criteria to decide the period, that an industry could enjoy the incentives offered, depends on employment generation, local resources used, and social and economic benefits to the country.

Caricom Exchange Problems

FL281850 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 28 Mar 84

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, March 28 (CANA) -- Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has blamed a lack of foreign exchange within the Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries for the serious trade problems within the region.

She said she did not believe that the suspended Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), through which Community states paid each other for regionally traded goods, would ever be reactivated.

Speaking at her first news conference here this year, Miss Charles told reporters: "I think in all the countries the foreign exchange problem is the problem, had the facility which existed not been bust...we would have been able to continue, but without that facility it makes it difficult for us."

The facility was suspended nearly a year ago when it ran out of money, leaving some countries unpaid for goods sold to member states, and Miss Charles said that though Dominica was not in that category, it along with member states of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was owed in excess of nine million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.). She said that attempts at getting outside assistance to reactivate the facility had so far been fruitless. "I think it is very difficult...I think everybody must know that our countries don't pay your debts for you," the prime minister said.

Asked if that meant that the facility would not now be reactivated, Miss Charles said: "not unless we can put the money in ourselves."

Miss Charles said her government was "very upset" over last week's announcement by the second major revenue earner industry here -- soap -- that 70-odd persons would be laid off because of trading problems within the region. But, she added: "it is obvious that it can't be helped because there is so much money outstanding and because we can't produce any more soap because there isn't any room to put".

She said that the lone soap manufacturer -- The Dominica Coconut Products Limited -- was forced into retrenchment because it had lost its Jamaica market which accounted for 70 per cent of the DCP's total soap sales abroad. Miss Charles said however, that markets had been found in Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico and "there are other areas I don't want to disclose now" which would absorb the backlog of soap here.

GRENADA

RELEASE DENIED 14 DETAINEES CONNECTED WITH COUP

FL271420 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] In Grenada, High Court Judge James Patterson, on Monday, dismissed a request by a Jamaican lawyer to charge or release 14 persons held in connection with last October's coup. Attorney Jackelene Samuels Brown filed a writ of habeas corpus demanding that prisoners held without charges be formally accused or released from custody.

Judge Patterson said there were procedural deficiencies in the writ because it was filed on behalf of all 14 detainees as a group instead of individually. The defense team said it would refile the writs individually.

Counsel To Prosecute

FL271800 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 27 (CANA) -- Grenada has secured the services of senior Barbados Crown Counsel Odel Adams to help prosecute the case against 18 ex-political and military officers charged with murder or conspiracy in connection with murder following last October's bloody army coup here.

Seven former soldiers of the now disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), including Major Christopher Stroude and Captain Lester Redhead were charged with the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, half his cabinet and four others.

Ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, former Army Commander General Hudson Austin and nine others are charged with conspiracy to murder under a 1980 terrorism prevention law.

Adams, who was admitted to the local bar yesterday, is the first overseas prosecution lawyer to be recruited for the case.

He was called to the bar in 1965 and served from 1975-78 as the director of public prosecutions in St Kitts-Nevis.

He is due to assume duties on April 1 as the new attorney-general of the British colony of Monsterrat.

Well-placed government sources indicated that for security reasons the case brought would not be heard at the magistrates court in St George's but at a community centre in a restricted area near the prison.

BOLIVIA

SUSPENSION OF TRANSPORT SERVICE POSSIBLE

PY281337 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Public transport services will reportedly be suspended beginning tomorrow, Thursday, if an agreement with the UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] on the new tariff policy is not reached. This new tariff policy has reportedly been approved jointly by representatives of the government and of the transporters. Edgar Sandoval, executive secretary of the Bolivian Drivers Confederation, has commented to Radio Panamericana in this regard. He refuted remarks by Gualberto Aguirre, chairman of the Technical Committee of the Transport and Communications Ministry.

[Begin Sandoval recording] We can by no means accept Aguirre's remarks because he is not telling the truth. We do not want to believe that a Transport Ministry official could have made that statement. I am sure you are convinced that the studies have been carried out jointly, and by no means in a unilateral manner. We have here all the records of the studies carried out in the transport sector, with the participation of Gualberto Aguirre and engineer Luis Mendieta, director of the Transport Department. Consequently, these studies are totally compatible with guidelines to be announced by the national government [words indistinct] of the economic team and of the transport minister himself. [end recording]

SURINAME

SUSPECTS IN PLOT RELEASED, NO EVIDENCE FOUND

FL282010 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Eight men have arrived in Holland after being expelled from French Guiana on charges that they were planning an attempt to overthrow the military government in the neighboring Republic of Suriname. The men were allowed to go free from Amsterdam International Airport in accordance with an announcement yesterday that they will not face prosecution in the Netherlands.

The public prosecutor of the Harlem District [word indistinct] said yesterday that there was no evidence available that the men had committed a criminal offense. The eight men would not speak to reporters. They declared they wanted to wait until eight other men, also expelled from French Guiana, have arrived in Holland.

All 16 men are of Surinamese origin, but most are Dutch passport holders. After being arrested in French Guiana last Saturday, they were expelled to the Netherland Antilles.